PUBLIC CHARACTERS

OF

1799-1800.

260

"——— I wish no other herald,
"No other speaker of my *living actions*,
"To keep mine honour from corruption,
"But such an honest chronicler." ———

Hen. VIII. Act 4, Sc. 2.

"——— Hic nigræ succus loliginis; hæc est
"Ærugo mera; quod vitium procul afore chartis,
"Atque animo prius, ut si quid promittere de me
"Possum aliud vere promitto."

Horace, Sat. i. 4. 100.

TO BE CONTINUED ANNUALLY.

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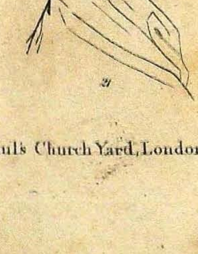

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ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE favourable reception with which the former volume of this work was honoured, the rapid sale of two very large editions in Great Britain, and the avidity with which it was translated into foreign languages and re-published in Ireland and America, render it unnecessary for the editor to expatiate on the nature and utility of the design.

In the preface to that volume, he described at large the peculiar advantages possessed by contemporary over posthumous biography; and he conceives that the spirit of candour and moderation, in which the several memoirs were written, tended to rescue this species of writing from much of the obloquy under which it had previously laboured.

The same spirit has directed the formation of the present volume; and the editor hopes it will be found that the various WRITERS of the

following pages have fully availed themselves of the advantages resulting from living observation, uninfluenced by the prejudices which too frequently disfigure the opinions of contemporaries.

The memoirs in the present, as in the former, volume have been communicated by the persons whose initials or assumed signatures are affixed to them. These persons in general have an immediate knowledge of the individuals respecting whom they write, and are able to bestow on their respective articles a due degree of authenticity and copiousness. It results, however, as a consequence of this necessary arrangement, that the work contains much variation of style, and considerable inequality of literary merit. Thus, while *some* articles only recommend themselves as containing a simple statement of facts, *others*, communicated by gentlemen of distinguished literary attainments, abound in moral and critical observations, and combine, with UNQUESTIONABLE AUTHENTICITY, the graces of elegant composition.

It

It is presumed that no sentiment has place in this volume which can give a moment's pain to any of the personages whose memoirs are inserted. Corrections of any such passages, should they unfortunately exist, and valuable and authentic communications or additions to any of the articles, will henceforward be affixed to each subsequent volume in the form of an Appendix.

London, October, 1799.

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PUBLIC CHARACTERS

OF 1799.

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JERVIS, EARL ST. VINCENT.

—— VINCENTI CORONA.

UPON that column, which a grateful country meditates to erect in commemoration of naval victories, glorious beyond example and important beyond calculation, the chissel of the artist shall not inscribe a name more deservedly esteemed and honoured than that of Jervis, nor shall the pen of the historian record a victory more glorious than that whence this brave commander derives his title.

While sculpture and history thus commemorate the achievement, curiosity, laudably inquisitive, inquires the name and character of the individual who performed it; and the writer of the biographic sketch, occasionally quitting the anecdote which gratifies curiosity, rises into the consequence of the historian, and records a brilliant event in the annals of his country.

Earl St. Vincent, although sixty-five years of age, fifty-five of which have been spent in the service, still retains

"A sparkling eye beneath a veteran brow."

His

His Lordship possesses all the fire and energy of youth tempered with all the maturer experience and deliberative wisdom of age. He is descended from an ancient and respectable family in Staffordshire, and is the second and youngest son of Swynfen Jervis, Esq. barrister-at-law, counsel to the Admiralty, and auditor of Greenwich-Hospital; and his mother was the sister of Sir Thomas Parker, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

At the early period of ten years of age, his Lordship quitted Burton Grammar-School,* where he imbibed the rudiments of his education, and entered into the navy, a service in which he was probably induced to embark from his father's situation in the Admiralty.

The foundation of those principles of naval discipline and superior seamanship, which his Lordship has upon all occasions so conspicuously and effectually displayed, was first laid under that distinguished officer Lord Hawke, to whose principles, although that great commander is now no moré, the British navy is in no inconsiderable degree indebted for the fame it has acquired.

The probationary interval of servitude, passed in the capacity of midshipman until rising to the rank of lieutenant, affords little scope for general observation or public notice; it is enough, that, in this capacity, the more private but not less meritorious duties are performed under the eye and

* Mr. Merx, the brewer, was one of his Lordship's cotemporaries.

approbation

approbation of the superior officers; but it is allowed by all who knew his Lordship in that subordinate capacity, that he was here distinguished for that prompt obedience to command which constitutes, in the opinion of his Lordship, the life and soul of naval discipline.

Soon after the peace, his Lordship was sent to France to acquire those accomplishments which are requisite in an extensive intercourse with the world, and perfect himself in the French language, an almost-indispensable requisite in the education of a naval officer.

The limits assigned to this sketch do not allow us to trace his Lordship through the respective gradations of lieutenant, or master and commander, those more prominent points only of general observation and historical record must consequently form this biographic portrait, accompanied by such information and anecdote as may gratify reasonable curiosity, delineated with that fidelity, and, at the same time, consistent with that delicacy, which ought always to be observed in sketching the portrait of a *living* character.

The dates of his Lordship's commission as a lieutenant, and master and commander, together with the services he performed, are here not touched upon, because the splendor of his later achievements is so conspicuous, as to render these details, (necessary, perhaps, in other lives,) in his character, more easily to be dispensed with. This, therefore, we shall pass over, with

the

the observation, that, in the year 1760, his Lordship was promoted to the rank of post-captain, and served some time upon the West-India station.

In the memorable engagement between the French and British fleets, on the 27th and 28th of July, 1778, his Lordship commanded the Foudroyant, which was the next ship to the Victory, and as closely engaged and as much disabled as any ship in the fleet. Indeed it is impossible to convey a better idea of his Lordship's character and opinion, relative to that engagement, than by the following extracts from the clear, consistent, and pointed, testimony which he gave upon the court-martial called upon Admiral Keppel.

Upon the following question being put by the Admiral,

Q. Your station being nearest me during the pursuit of the enemy and after the action, which gave you an opportunity of observing my conduct, and of seeing objects nearly in the same point of view with myself, I desire you will state to the court any instance, if you saw or knew of any such, in which I negligently performed my duty on the 27th or 28th of July?

A. With great respect to you, sir, and deference to the court, I hope I shall be indulged with having that question put by the court.

The Judge-Advocate, *mutatis mutandis*, then put the question.

A.

A. I feel myself bound to answer that question. I believe it to be consonant to the general practice of sea courts-martial. — I cannot boast of a long acquaintance with Admiral Keppel; I never had the honour of serving under him before; but I am happy in this opportunity to declare to this court, and to the whole world, that, during the whole time that the English fleet was in sight of the French fleet, he displayed *the greatest naval skill and ability and the boldest enterprise upon the 27th of July; which, with the promptitude of Sir Robert Harland, will be subjects of my admiration and imitation as long as I live.*

From the evidence given upon this trial it appears, that the Foudroyant, which had got into her station about three, and never left it till four the next morning, was very closely engaged, and in a most disabled state. Her main-mast had received a shot very near through the head and lodged in the cheek, which passed through the heart of the mast; and several other shot in different places; her fore-mast had also received several shot; a large excavation had been made in her bowsprit near the centre; the fore-topmast was so disabled, that it was obliged to be reefed, and the mizen was totally disabled; every rope of her running-rigging cut, and her shrouds demolished; no braces or bowlines left, and scarcely any halyards: fore-stay, spring-stay, and topsail-ties, and the foot-rope of the fore-topsail, shot away: her sails also were very much shattered.

In

In this most disabled state, the Foudroyant was not in a condition to chase, but kept her station next the Victory, as far to windward as possible. "*I was covetous of wind,*" said this brave officer, "*because, disabled as I then was, I conceived the advantage of the wind could only carry me again into action.*"

Being asked some questions relative to the position of the vice-admiral and his division, his Lordship pointedly replied, that "*he was not a competent judge of that part of the fleet, he was very attentive to the admiral.*"

Nor was the *special pleading*, attempted to be introduced relative to any variance between his evidence and the log-book, capable of affecting him. His Lordship declared he always gave his testimony from his own observation. His questions were not shaped to answers; nor would he, in any case, be compelled to swear to what was set down in the log-book, but only from what he saw or knew.

Indeed, throughout the whole of this examination, his Lordship's presence of mind, readiness and point in answer, and unshaken firmness, has demonstrated, that his intellectual faculties are by no means inferior to his successful intrepidity in the heat of battle.

We come now to detail the particulars, to use the words of Admiral Barrington, then commander-in-chief, of one of the most brilliant actions which had occurred during the American war, namely, the capture of *the Pégase*; an action which decidedly proved

proved that species of happy valour, which constitutes the leading feature of his Lordship's professional character. In the month of April, 1782, Admiral Barrington sailed for the Bay of Biscay with twelve sail of the line; and, when a short distance off Ushant, Captain M'Bride, commanding the *Artois*, which was very far a-head, made the signal for discovering an enemy's fleet. In consequence of which, the Admiral hove out the signal for a general chase, and about three o'clock the enemy became visible; but the Admiral's ship, the *Britannia*, was left very far a-stern by many of the prime-sailing ships, amongst which, the Foudroyant, Captain Jervis, so far outstripped the rest, that, when night came on, with hazy weather, he soon lost them entirely, but still kept a full view of the enemy, whom he pursued with unremitting vigour. The chased fleet consisted of eighteen sail, laden with provision and ammunition, and containing a considerable number of troops for the supply of the French fleet and forces in the East Indies, being particularly to supply the loss of that convoy which had been taken by Admiral Kempenfelt in the preceding winter: they had sailed from Brest only the day before, and were under the protection of the *Protecteur* and *Pégase* of 74 guns each, *l'Actionnaire* of 64 guns, armed en flute, and a frigate. The Foudroyant gained so fast upon the chase, that it was evident they could not escape without an engagement; the convoy was therefore dispersed by signal, and the two

French seventy-fours having consulted together, it was determined, that, as the *Protecteur* had a large quantity of money on-board, she should make the best of her way; and that, if fighting was inevitable, the *Pégase* should abide the consequence. A little before one A. M. the *Foudroyant* came up, and was closely engaged with the *Pégase*, commanded by the Chevalier de Sillaris. This action was extremely fierce whilst it lasted; but, within less than an hour from its commencement, his Lordship laid the French ship aboard on the larboard quarter, and the *Pégase* was compelled to strike. Nothing could have afforded a more striking instance of the decided superiority of seamanship and discipline on the one side, and of the great effects which these qualifications produced on the other, than the circumstances of this gallant action. On board the *Pégase*, 80 were killed and wounded; the hull, masts, and yards, of the French ship were materially injured; and the damage she sustained was beyond any thing that could have been supposed, considering the short time she was engaged; while the *Foudroyant* sustained but little injury; not a man was killed, none mortally, and his Lordship the worst wounded.* At this time, the sea was so

* His Lordship was wounded by a splinter, which struck him on the temple, the effects of which have never been removed, as his eyes have ever since been affected. The engagement between the Foudroyant and the Pégase have been admirably depicted by Serres, who has devoted two pictures to the subject, which are now in the possession of the Marquis of Lansdown.

rough,

rough, that it was with great difficulty that his Lordship, with the loss of two boats, could put an officer and eighty men on board the prize. Soon after this was effected, the *Foudroyant* and *Pégase* lost sight of each other; but the *Queen*, fortunately coming up, took possession of her. In consequence of this gallant action, Captain Jervis was honoured with the insignia of Knight of the Bath; and, about this period, was married to his first cousin, Miss Parker, daughter of Sir Thomas Parker.

Previous to the commencement of the present war, his Lordship, who, in the year 1787, had been promoted to the rank of rear-admiral of the blue, and in the year 1790 to that of rear-admiral of the white, acted and voted with the Opposition; but, when the war had actually commenced, he considered himself as bound in honour to make a tender of his services; which, highly creditable to the judgement of administration, was immediately accepted, and he was appointed to command the squadron, destined to co-operate with Sir Charles Grey in the reduction of the French West-India islands.* In this toilsome service, with the most formidable difficulties to encounter, the spirit and perseverance of these brave commanders shone pre-eminently conspicuous; and the London Gazette Ex-

* About ten thousand men, originally destined for this service, were drafted off, and employed in an expedition to the coast of France.

traordinary, in the month of April, 1794, announced the important intelligence, that, on the 16th of March preceding, the whole island of Martinique had been captured from the French, excepting the forts *Bourbon* and *Royal*, which were then closely besieged; and, on the 26th of the same month, dispatches from the commander-in-chief were received, containing intelligence of the complete conquest of the island of *Martinique* by the surrender of the fort *Bourbon*: five stand of colours laid down by the garrison, together with two colours of *Fort Bourbon*, were sent and presented to his Majesty. This was a battle on both sides hardly fought; and Sir Charles Grey thus handsomely bears testimony to the gallantry of his opponents: "The gallant defence," said Sir Charles, "made by General *Rochambeau* and his garrison, was strongly manifested on entering Fort Bourbon, as there was scarce an inch of ground untouched by our shot and shells; and it is but justice to say, that it did them the highest honour."

The remainder of the French West-India islands soon after followed the example of *Martinique*; but, in consequence of the sickness of the troops, and for want of sufficient reinforcement, these conquests could not be retained.

Earl St. Vincent returned home from this expedition with his health considerably injured, and very much emaciated, from the effects of the yellow fever; but, though his body was visibly impaired, his strong and ardent mind could not long brook inaction;

inaction; and, after the short interval of four months' repose, he was dispatched to succeed Admiral Hotham in command of the Mediterranean squadron, where he blocked up the Spanish fleet and bombarded Cadiz; to which, according to the accounts of the Paris papers, whose authority upon this occasion need not be suspected, he did considerable damage. Indeed, the services he had performed upon this station, in blocking up the Spanish fleet and protecting the coasts of Italy, in addition to his former meritorious achievements, had so recommended him to his Majesty, that it was in contemplation to raise him to the dignity of the peerage, and a patent was actually ordered to be prepared for that purpose, when the news of the glorious defeat of the Spanish fleet was first announced.

Before we enter upon the detail of this memorable victory, in justice to the character of his Lordship, we are bound to make some brief remarks upon the situation of the country, which are necessary to appreciate more justly the value of such distinguished services.

During the year 1797, the war between Great Britain and France was almost exclusively confined to naval operations, in which the skill and activity of British seamen were eminently conspicuous, and a series of splendid victories had animated their spirit to a most uncommon height: —still it must be remarked, that the enemies of

Great Britain had also considerably increased. The Spaniards, negligent of their better interests, too subservient to the fatal influence of the Great Nation! had agreed to co-operate in its desolating principles; and the navy of Spain and Holland was to have joined that of France.

About this period, the conspiracy, which had been long forming in Ireland, began to wear the more open character of bold and avowed rebellion. The conspirators relying upon the protection of France, which could only be afforded by so formidable a concentration of naval force as would have been produced by the junction of the three navies, and which seemed difficult at that period to prevent, began to be more bold and open in their conduct. A general gloom pervaded the country; and never was there a period which required a greater effort to revive the drooping spirits of his countrymen, than the period of this enterprising victory.

The country was, at this time, on all sides, threatened with invasion; the very bulwarks of the nation tottered; and the Irish conspiracy had infected the British fleet, which was taken possession of by the mutineers. To blockade the fleets of the enemy in their own ports and to prevent a junction was the only mode of averting the impending blow. — To have engaged a fleet so numerous as the combined fleets, would have been most hazardous; and with such an inferior squadron to prevent the junction, seemed to be impossible.

sible. Notwithstanding these obstacles, the mighty mind of Sir John Jervis, upon viewing the fleet of the enemy, instantly conceived that bold project, which terminated so gloriously for himself, and so honourably for his country.

Conscious of their superiority of number, the Spanish admiral, not conceiving such a spirit of enterprise as was inherent in the British fleet, watched a favourable opportunity, and put to sea. The moment his Lordship was apprised of the course of the Spanish fleet, he called all his captains on board, explained to them in person his plan of attack, and gave them such complete orders, that he had no occasion, during the whole of the action, to make above three or four signals, a circumstance that contributed considerably to perplex the fleet of the enemy.—This mode, it may be observed, was also followed by Lord Nelson; and to Lord St. Vincent's judgement and system of tactics may be attributed, in a great measure, the glorious victory of the Nile, a victory more brilliant with respect to the number of ships captured, not inferior perhaps in point of daring enterprise, but, certainly, not achieved against an enemy so formidably superior.

The Spanish fleet, commanded by Don Juan de Cordova, consisted of TWENTY-SEVEN sail of the line, one of which was a four-decker, and mounted one hundred and thirty-six guns; six were three-deckers of one hundred and twelve guns each; two of eighty-four, and eighteen of seventy-

 four.

four. The British squadron amounted only to FIFTEEN SAIL OF THE LINE, FOUR FRIGATES, A SLOOP OF WAR, AND A CUTTER; of these, six were three-deckers, eight were of seventy-four guns, and one of sixty-four. The Spanish admiral had sailed from Cordova on the 4th of February, and passed Gibraltar on the following day, having left in that bay three line-of-battle ships. On the night of the 11th, the Spanish fleet was first discovered by the Minerva frigate; and, in the night of the 13th, the two fleets approached so near each other, that their signal-guns could be heard: at day-break on the 14th, were in complete order, and by six A. M. were prepared for battle. About ten the Spanish fleet was visible to all the British squadron, and some of the ships appeared to be separated from the main body: the British admiral instantly conceived the design of cutting off these before they could re-join, or the main body arrive to their assistance; but, observing the position of the main body, he formed his fleet into a line of battle a-head and a-stern, and, about half past eleven, signified his intention to push through the enemy's line. The signal was accordingly hove out for action. His Lordship accomplished his design, and a part of the fleet was most effectually separated from the main body, which, in consequence of this separation, was reduced to eighteen sail of the line. Towards this main body, which was then to windward, the British admiral directed his attention; and, a little

little after twelve, he again made the signal for passing through the enemy's line, which the Spanish commander attempted to counteract, by wearing round the rear of the British line, to join his ships to leeward; but this effort was counteracted by Commodore Nelson, who had no sooner passed the rear of the enemy, than he ordered his ship, the *Captain*, to wear and stand on the other tack. In executing this bold manœuvre, Commodore Nelson found himself along-side the *Santissima Trinidada* of 136 guns, and the *Captain* only a 74. Although the *Santissima Trinidada* was assisted by her two seconds, three-deckers, this gallant commander did not shrink from the contest. The *Culloden* and *Blenheim* had, however, by this time pressed to his assistance, and the approach of Admiral Parker, with four other ships of the line, prevented the Spanish admiral from effecting his design of re-joining the ships to leeward. The advantage at this period being completely with the British, the Spanish fleet were crowding off; but, in the confusion of their retreat, some of the Spanish ships had doubled on each other. Admiral Jervis then bore up with the seven ships in his division, with an intent to rake the enemy in succession; but, not being able to effect this, he ordered the leading ship, the *Excellent*, to bear up, while he, in the *Victory*, passed to leeward of the rearmost ships of the enemy. Captain Collingwood, who commanded the *Excellent*, accordingly passed between the two rearmost ships of the

the enemy, and poured such an effectual broadside into the *San Ysidro*, that she was obliged to submit. After this, the *Excellent* moved on to the relief of the *Captain*, which was engaged with a three-decker; but, before she could arrive, this ship got foul of her second, a two-decker, in which state they were both boarded by the *Captain*, and the smaller, the *San Nicolas*, was speedily taken possession of; the three-decker, the *San Josef*, followed the fate of her second, and became a prize to Commodore Nelson, who headed the party which boarded her from the San Nicolas. In the mean time, Admiral Jervis, who had ordered the *Victory* to be laid alongside the *Salvador del Mundo*, the rearmost ship of the enemy, poured in such an effectual discharge, that she thought proper to strike. — Thus four of the enemy's ships were in possession of the British, whose loss, in killed and wounded, was exactly three hundred men: the loss of the Spaniards, in the four captured ships alone, amounted to six hundred and ninety-three men; from which proportion, the remainder of their flying fleet must have suffered very considerably. The remainder of the Spanish fleet then took shelter in Cadiz, and Sir John Jervis soon after entered the Tagus, with his fleet and prizes, amidst the cheering shouts of the populace, where three thousand two hundred prisoners were landed from the four prizes. Thus were most propitiously averted the designs of a rapacious enemy, whose intent was to effect a junction

tion with this defeated fleet, that it might disgorge a legion of rapacious madmen on whatever shore of Great Britain might promise the surest means of continuing that desolating system, which has long "frighted Europe from her propriety." And, had this daring enterprise not succeeded, and the little squadron of his Lordship had been defeated, the junction of the French, Dutch, and Spanish, fleets would have amounted to no less than eighty sail of the line!

The gloom which overspread the country was dispelled by the news of this victory, which was received with that grateful exultation which characterizes Englishmen towards their brave defenders. Admiral Jervis received the thanks of the two Houses, and was honoured with the title of Earl St. Vincent, from the scene of this brilliant action, and Baron Jervis of Meaford, from the place of his birth; he also received the gold medal and a pension of three thousand pounds per annum. Pausing for a moment, and contemplating this glorious victory, not in invidious, but more distinctive, comparison with others, it will readily be admitted, that other victories may have been more brilliant in point of the number of ships captured; but it is also to be considered, that the power of the two contending fleets has, in other cases, been nearly balanced. It was reserved, however, for history to trace in characters bold and impressive as the achievement recorded, that a British admiral, with a squadron of *fifteen ships* of the line,

engaged

engaged and vanquished the fleet of Spain, consisting of *twenty-seven*, one of which was a *four decker*, and mounted one hundred and thirty six guns!

Upon the motion in the House of Lords relative to the late vote of thanks upon his Lordship's victory, the Duke of Bedford proposed, as this victory differed from every other, to introduce an amendment expressive of its characteristic distinction. His Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence supported this amendment; and, in his speech upon this occasion, gave several instances, from his own knowledge, of the excellent state and discipline in which the men and ships under his Lordship's command were invariably kept; and, continued his Royal Highness, "without giving the slightest offence to any other, I do not hesitate to declare Sir John Jervis the very best officer in his Majesty's service."—His Royal Highness sailed some time under his Lordship's command: his conduct, as a naval officer, is modelled on his Lordship's principles; and there is no doubt, but, should any occasion offer to call forth the exertion of his Royal Highness's talents, he will prove himself worthy of that school in which he was bred, and not inferior to any of his predecessors in the path of naval renown.

His Lordship has been twice chosen a representative of the borough of Great Yarmouth; and, upon the recommendation of his intimate friend and patron, the Marquis of Lansdown, was introduced

duced to the Whig-party in that town. At a later election, he declined Yarmouth in favour of his colleague, Mr. Beaufoy, and was returned with Sir Thomas Baring for High Wycombe. Upon the death of Lord Charles Townshend, his Lordship was again put in nomination for Yarmouth; but, although this friendly effort did not succeed, it ought in justice to be observed, in testimony of his Lordship's distinguished merit on the one side, and the grateful sense of it entertained by the constituents of this borough on the other, that, in his absence, without any solicitation, even without his knowledge, and without expense, he was put in nomination. Indeed, so firm was his Lordship's attachment to the constituents of this borough, that he wished to have taken the title of Earl of Yarmouth; but, upon being informed that his title was that of St. Vincent, his Lordship observed that he was very well satisfied, as "that title belonged to *every officer and seaman of his fleet.*"

In his political character, his Lordship has voted and acted with Opposition; and his speeches in parliament relative to the impolicy of the present war are replete with that argument and point by which, upon every occasion, his Lordship has been characterized.

His Lordship has long been in habits of intimacy with that great statesman, the Marquis of Lansdown, a nobleman not less distinguished for profound political knowledge than the introduc-

tion

tion and patronage of eminent public characters: to instance, amongst many, Admiral Barrington and Colonel Barré, with all of whom Lord St. Vincent has lived in habits of intimacy and friendship: nor will his Lordship's discriminating judgement pass without a due share of applause, when it is known, that some of the first officers of the navy have been formed under him.* Amongst these may be reckoned Lord Nelson of the Nile: his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence was also some time under his command, and has always professed as much respect and esteem for his Lordship as an individual, as he has declared his well-merited approbation of his Lordship's character as a naval commander.

In consequence of severe illness, occasioned by the baneful effects of a West-India climate, his Lordship was compelled to leave his station in the Mediterranean; but still retains the command, until the state of his health shall permit him to resume it.

On the 18th of August, 1799, his Lordship landed in the dock-yard at Portsmouth, and went to the house of Sir Peter Parker, where he was waited upon by the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses; when the mayor presented the following address:

* Evan Nepean, Esq. the present secretary to the Admiralty, was originally introduced and patronised by Lord St. Vincent, under whom he served as purser.

"My

"My Lord,

Impressed with the most grateful sense of the high services rendered to our country by the glorious victory, obtained by the fleet under your command, over that of the enemy, on the 14th of February, 1797, the mayor and aldermen of this borough elected and appointed your Lordship a burgess of this ancient corporation. They now take the earliest opportunity to shew their high esteem and regard, by congratulating you on your safe return; sincerely wishing your Lordship may be speedily restored to health, that your country may again be benefited by fresh victories obtained by the fleet under your command."

To which his Lordship was pleased to return the following answer:

"I am very happy on this occasion to repeat the sense I entertain of the great honour done me by the mayor and aldermen of the borough of Portsmouth, in electing and appointing me a burgess of their ancient corporation, and in assuring them, that I shall be ready on all occasions to promote the interest of the borough.

"I return you many thanks for your congratulations on my return to England, and kind wishes for the speedy recovery of my health, which *if it please God to restore, the remainder of my life will be devoted to the service of my king and country.*"

It

It is a most pleasing and important communication to his country, that his Lordship is so far advanced in a state of convalescence as soon to be enabled to perform his promise, and conclude a life distinguished for glorious naval achievement in the service of a country which he has so largely contributed to defend and to exalt.

His Lordship was made lieutenant in the year 1755, in the same year with Lord Duncan and Admiral Hotham. He was made post-captain in the year 1760, knight of the Bath in the year 1783, rear-admiral of the blue in the year 1787, rear-admiral of the white in the year 1790, and is now admiral of the blue.

The whole life of this gallant Admiral, which has been devoted to the service of his country, has been characterized by uncommon energy of mind, and superior skill in his profession. The strictest honour and the most inflexible integrity have ever distinguished his political, and the firmest and warmest attachment to his friends has always characterized his social, life.

M. X. L.

MR.

MR. SHERIDAN.

IT has been justly remarked by Dr. Johnson that, "many things, which are false, are transmitted from book to book, and gain credit in the world." This observation may be applied to the different memoirs of Mr. Sheridan, which have been published. The grossest errors acquire a sort of currency among the majority of readers, who have not had an opportunity, or perhaps an inclination, to investigate the accuracy of circumstances, that seem of trifling moment. They are considered as unquestionable facts by succeeding biographers, and given to the public with embellishments which strengthen deception, and frequently mislead even the friends of the person, whose memoir is the subject of perusal. But it is the duty of a biographer to be accurate in the most trivial circumstances, which he has occasion to relate, or to omit them altogether.

Richard Brinsley Sheridan is the third son of Mr. Thomas Sheridan, celebrated as an actor, eminent for his skill in elocution, and entitled to the gratitude of the public for his judicious and indefatigable exertions to improve the system of education in this country. His works, with the exception of some plays, which he altered, and the Life of Dean Swift, which he prepared

for publication, in general, relate to the elements of language and the instruction of youth *. His father, the Reverend Doctor Thomas Sheridan, was a distinguished divine, the ablest school-master of his time, and the intimate friend of the Dean of St. Patrick's. Mr. Thomas Sheridan died at Margate on the 14th of August, 1788.

Mrs. Frances Sheridan, the mother of Richard Brinsley, a lady no less respected for her domestic virtues than admired for her literary attainments was the author of Sidney Biddulph, a novel, which has the merit of combining the purest morality with the most powerful interest. She also wrote Nourjahad, an Oriental Tale, and the comedies of the Discovery, the Dupe, and a Trip to Bath. She died at Blois in France, the 17th of September, 1766 †.

The

* List of Mr. Sheridan's principal works:—The Loyal Lover, Romeo and Juliet, and Coriolanus, all altered and acted; British Education; A Discourse delivered in the theatre at Oxford, and in the senate-house at Cambridge; A Dissertation on the Causes of the Difficulties which occur in learning the English Tongue; A Course of Lectures on Elocution; A Plan of Education for the young Nobility and Gentry of Great Britain; Lectures on the Art of Reading, in two parts; A general Dictionary of the English Language; The Works of the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's, arranged, revised and corrected; Elements of English.

† Such was the respect paid to her memory by the Bishop of Blois, that he had it intimated to her friends, notwithstanding the difference of religious persuasion, that they might take

J. Cundee, Printer, Ivy Lane.

The subject of this memoir was born in Dorset-street, Dublin, in the month of October, 1751 *. He was placed, in his seventh year, with his elder brother Charles Francis, late Secretary at War in Ireland, the correct and elegant historian of the revolution in Sweden, under the tuition of Mr. Samuel Whyte of Dublin, the friend of their father, who has been a long time highly esteemed for his care and ability in the instruction of youth. They were the two first pupils of Mr. Whyte, who opened his academy in April 1758, and it is a circumstance not entirely unworthy of remark, that their early years afforded no promise of the abilities which they have since displayed. Mrs. Sheridan, whose discrimination cannot be questioned, took an opportunity, on committing them to the care of Mr. Whyte, to advert to the necessity of *patience* in the arduous profession, which he had embraced, and addressed him in the following language—" These boys

take advantage of the night to deposit her remains in consecrated ground, and no interruption should be given to the interment—an indulgence in France, which was perhaps never before extended to any reputed heretic. Dr. Young, in his Night Thoughts, bitterly complains of the different treatment which attended his daughter's burial in the same country.

* Extract from the register of St. Mary's parish, Dublin. " Charles Francis, son of Thomas and Frances Sheridan, baptized July 23d, 1750—Richard Brinsley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, baptized November 4th, 1751."

Mr. Sheridan's eldest son Thomas, died in childhood.

will be your tutors in that respect. I have hitherto been their only instructor, and they have sufficiently exercised mine; for two such impenetrable dunces I never met with."

Having remained nearly eighteen months with Mr. Whyte, they were sent by that gentleman, in September 1759, to Mr. and Mrs. Sheridan, who then resided at Windsor. There they passed nearly a year, their education, during that time, being superintended by Mrs. Sheridan herself. Richard Brinsley was placed at Harrow school, after the Christmas of 1762. The observation, made by his mother on the occasion, taken from one of her letters, now before the writer of this sketch, is, when connected with his subsequent pursuits, rather of a singular kind. She says—"Dick has been at Harrow school since Christmas; as he probably may fall into *a bustling life*, we have a mind to accustom him early to *shift for himself*." It has been reported, but without foundation, that he gave recitations from the English classics during his father's lectures. His father, on the contrary, never entertained an idea of employing him in that manner, as his brother Charles was very much his superior in diligence, correctness of ear, and powers of voice, and was remarkable, when only eleven years old, for his elegant and impressive delivery of several passages from Milton.

The literary advancement of Mr. Sheridan at Harrow, a seminary which has sent into the world

world many finished scholars, and distinguished characters, appears to have been at first retarded, either by the bluntness of his powers, or the negligence of his disposition. Dr. Sumner, who was then master of the school, had probably, from his constant attention to the boys of the higher forms, no opportunity of distinguishing the talents of his pupil; and it was reserved for Dr. Parr, who was at that time one of the sub-preceptors, to discover and call into activity the faculties of young Sheridan's mind.

Richard Brinsley was at length roused from the inactivity of which his parents had so frequently complained, and the spirit of emulation produced exertions, which admonition and the fear of correction had vainly endeavoured to excite. He felt, that to be distinguished, it was necessary to devote a considerable part of his time to study. His memory was found to be uncommonly retentive, and his judgment correct; and when his mind was quickened by competition, his genius gradually expanded, into that happy versatility of powers which has never deserted him. But to be admired seemed his only object, and when that end was attained, he relaxed in his application, and sunk into his former indolence. His last year at Harrow was spent more in reflecting on the acquirements he had made, and the eventful scenes of a busy life, which were opening to his view, than in enlarging the circle of his classical and literary attainments.

His father was so highly pleased with the progress his son had made in his studies, that he deemed it unnecessary to send him to the university; and he was, a short time after his departure from Harrow, entered as a student in the Middle Temple. From that period to his marriage with Miss Linley, the life of Mr. Sheridan seems involved in obscurity, which it is difficult to clear up in a satisfactory way. He certainly was not, for it is mentioned on the authority of persons who were then on terms of intimacy with him, either the votary of fashion, or immersed in dissipation.

Mr. Sheridan was, about the age of twenty, peculiarly fond of the society of men of taste and learning, and soon gave proofs that he was inferior to none of his companions in wit and argument. The sum allowed for his support must have been very small, as his father's pension from the crown * was barely sufficient to provide for the expences incurred by a genteel, but moderate plan of living; nor were the emoluments arising from his lectures on elocution, and his performances as an actor, very considerable. In this situation, Mr. Sheridan had recourse to his literary talents for pecuniary supplies. He had read,

* A pension of 200l. per annum was granted by his Majesty, in 1762, to Mr. T. Sheridan, without solicitation, as an encouragement to complete his English Dictionary, and as a reward for his literary labours.

immediately

immediately after his leaving Harrow, with minute attention, the works of our most eminent writers, and applied himself to the study of English composition in its various branches. Nothing, however but necessity could have induced him to exert his powers, as Dryden and many others had done before him, for immediate profit; for exclusively of an unaccountable propensity to indolence, which formed the distinguishing characteristic of his youthful days, and from which he cannot now be stimulated but by some great and sudden impulse, he has ever considered a mercenary writer, who is occasionally compelled to sacrifice his own conviction to the instructions of his employer, as a character truly wretched and contemptible. That he maintained his independence of sentiment there is no ground to disbelieve; but he had the prudence to conceal from most of his acquaintances whatever share he had in the fleeting productions of the day. He also directed his attention to the drama, as a subject, in every respect, calculated to reward his labours with fame and emolument; but disgusted with some sketches of comic character, which he drew, he actually destroyed them, and, in a moment of despair, renounced every hope of excellence as a dramatic writer. A poetical translation of *Asistænetus* has been attributed to him, but the share which he had in that version was very limited.

But the views, which he may have then entertained, either with respect to the cultivation and

exertion of his genius in literary pursuits, or to the study of the profession to which he had been destined by his father, were all lost in a passion, that mastered his reason. He at once saw and loved Miss Linley, and from his first introduction to her indulged the hope of triumphing over every obstacle that opposed his happiness. That lady was no less admirable for the elegant accomplishments of her sex and the affecting simplicity of her conversation, than for the charms of her person and the fascinating powers of her voice. She was the principal performer in the oratorios, at Drury-lane theatre; and the science, taste, but above all, the enthusiastic feeling which she displayed in the execution of the airs assigned to her, are still remembered with delight. The strains which she poured forth were the happiest combinations of nature and of art; but nature predominated over art. Her accents were so melodious and captivating, and their passage to the heart so sudden and irresistible, that "list'ning Envy would have dropped her snakes, and stern-ey'd Fury's self would have melted" at the sounds.

Mr. Sheridan became her avowed suitor, and every idea of interest and ambition was absorbed in his passion. Her father, Mr. Linley, the late ingenious composer, was not at first propitious to his passion, and he had many rivals to overcome in his attempts to gain the lady's

 affections.

affections. His perseverance, however, encreased with the difficulties that presented themselves, and his courage and resolution in vindicating Miss Linley's reputation from a calumnious report, which had been basely thrown out against it, obtained for him the fair prize for which he twice exposed his life.

Mr. Mathews, a gentleman then well known in the fashionable circles at Bath, had caused a paragraph to be inserted in a public paper at that place, which tended to prejudice the character of this young lady, and Mr. Sheridan immediately applied for redress to the printer, who communicated the author's name. Mr. Mathews had, in the mean time, set out for London, and was closely pursued by Mr. Sheridan. They met and fought a duel with swords at a tavern * in Henrietta-street, Covent-garden. Mr. Sheridan's second on the occasion was his brother Charles Francis, the late Secretary at War in Ireland. Great courage and skill were displayed on both sides; but Mr. Sheridan having succeeded in disarming his adversary, compelled him to sign a formal retractation of the paragraph which had been published.

The conqueror instantly returned to Bath; and thinking that, as the insult had been publicly given, the apology should have equal notoriety, he caused it to be published in the same paper.

* The house situated at the west end of Henrietta-street, now a china-warehouse, and partly in Bedford-street.

Mr.

Mr. Mathews soon heard of this circumstance, and irritated at his defeat, and the use which his antagonist had made of his retractation, repaired to Bath, determined to call upon Mr. Sheridan for satisfaction. A message was accordingly sent, and a meeting agreed to: Mr. Sheridan would have been justified, according to the most delicate punctilios of honour, in declining the call; but he silenced all the objections that were started by his friends, and the parties met at Kingsdown. The victory was desperately contested, and, after a discharge of pistols, they fought with swords. They were both wounded, and closing with each other, fell on the ground, where the fight was continued until they were separated. They received several wounds in this arduous struggle for life and honour, and a part of his opponent's weapon was left in Mr. Sheridan's ear.

Miss Linley did not suffer a long time to elapse before she rewarded Mr. Sheridan for the dangers he had braved in her defence, by accompanying him on a matrimonial excursion to the Continent. The ceremony was again performed, on their return to England, with the consent of the lady's parents.

From the period of her marriage, Mrs. Sheridan never appeared as a public performer. Her situation in the oratorios was filled by her younger sister, * Miss Mary Linley. Several lucrative

* This young lady died singing "I know that my Redeemer liveth!"

proposals

proposals were, about this time, made to Mrs. Sheridan, to induce her once more to charm the public ear, but they were rejected with disdain by Mr. Sheridan. During their residence in Orchard-street, they were subject to very distressing embarrassments; and it was not a very uncommon thing to want the necessary supplies for the day that was passing over them. Yet the firmness of Mr. Sheridan, in resisting every proposal of this nature, by which any loss of estimation in the eyes of the world might be incurred, remained invincible. He received a letter from the proprietors of the Pantheon, which was then about to be opened, offering Mrs. Sheridan one thousand pounds for her performance during twelve nights, and one thousand pounds more for a benefit, the profits of which they were to appropriate to their own use. The proposal of so large a sum as two thousand pounds, which might have been gained in a few weeks, was not even politely declined, but rejected with indignation by Mr. Sheridan, notwithstanding the earnest entreaties of his wife.

Mr. Sheridan, who was now encumbered with the cares of a family, felt the necessity of immediate exertion to provide for the pressing calls, inseparable from a domestic establishment, which, if not splendid, was marked with all the appearances of genteel life.

His

His attempt at dramatic composition, and the moderate opinion which he entertained of his talents in that respect, have been already noticed; but his charming lines to Miss Linley, and some occasional productions, which displayed with equal happiness his talent for natural tenderness of sentiment and brilliancy of wit, had secured to him no mean reputation as a poet. Thus compelled to become a candidate for public favour, he once more resumed his courtship of the comic muse; and having finished his play of the *Rivals*, he presented it to the Manager of Covent-garden Theatre, and it was accordingly represented on the 17th of January, 1775. This comedy was justly considered, by candid criticism, as a most promising essay for an author in his twenty-fifth year, but the public opinion did not exactly coincide with that of acknowledged judges of dramatic merit; and, in consequence of some slight disapprobation, it was withdrawn after the first night's performance. The partial failure of the piece has been attributed to the indifferent acting of Mr. Lee, in the character of Sir Lucius O'Trigger. For that gentleman, though allowed to possess considerable merit in parts of much more importance, had not sufficiently studied the whimsical humour and national manner of Irish characters. Whatever may have been the cause, Mr. Sheridan withdrew his play without any compulsion; and, having made some judicious alterations, both in the progress of the plot and

in

in the language, it was shortly after brought forward again, and received in the most favourable manner.

The fable of the Rivals possesses a sufficient degree of probability to render it interesting; the incidents succeed each other in natural progression, and the dialogue is witty, humorous, and characteristic, interspersed with pathetic appeals to the heart, but without those extraordinary effusions of excellence which, from the pen of the same writer, have since delighted the fancy and improved the understanding, on the stage and in the closet.

Had Mr. Sheridan's powers been evinced but by this comedy only, he would have been placed at no very great distance beyond the common crowd of play-wrights.

His next production was the farce of *St. Patrick's Day*, or *The Scheming Lieutenant*, a piece evidently written more for the purpose of trying his ability to excite broad laughter and humorous merriment, than with a view of enlarging his reputation. It was presented by him to Mr. Clinch, as a testimony of his good opinion, for the assistance he had experienced from that gentleman's excellent performance of Sir Lucius O'Trigger, in the Rivals, in which he had succeeded Mr. Lee. The farce of St. Patrick's Day was actually written in eight and forty hours, and was performed, for the benefit of Mr. Clinch, on the 2d of May, in the same year.

At

At the commencement of the ensuing season, he brought out his comic opera of the *Duenna*, a composition in every respect superior to the general class of English operas then in fashion. The plot of this pleasing piece, which deservedly retains its popularity on the stage, is simple, and incapable of producing much interest; but the elegance of the diction, the sweetness of the poetry, and the appropriate spirit infused into the characters, place it beyond all competition with the sing-song trifles which were then in high repute. The Duenna surpassed even the Beggars' Opera in attraction and popularity, and was performed seventy-five nights during the season, while Gay's singular production ran only sixty-five.

Mr. Sheridan's circumstances becoming about this time more independent, and his genius having struck out a line productive of fame and profit, he began to indulge in expensive entertainments, and he found no difficulty in extending his connections in fashionable life. "The "feast of reason, and the flow of soul," were seldom absent from the hospitalities of his house, and they were unquestionably very much promoted by the strength of argument and brilliancy of wit, which he could call forth in the hours of instructive enquiry or sportive conviviality, as well as by the charms of Mrs. Sheridan's conversation, and her fascinating powers of voice.

Mr.

Mr. Garrick having resolved to retire from the management of Drury-lane Theatre, a negociation for the purchase of his share of the patent was entered into with him by Dr. Ford, Mr. Linley, and Mr. Sheridan, who, in 1776, paid the sum of 30,000l. for it.

It now became his interest to apply his talents in support of the theatre in which he was so materially concerned, and he immediately brought out the *Trip to Scarborough*, altered from Vanbrugh's comedy of the Relapse. It was performed on the 24th of February, 1777; and, though the dialogue was much improved, and the incidents judiciously altered, the audience did not receive it in a very favourable manner on the first night of representation, on account of the incorrectness of the performers in general. It was afterwards played to crowded houses.

His next production was the comedy of the *School for Scandal*, which has deservedly raised his fame to undisputed pre-eminence over all the contemporary writers, and conferred, in the opinion of the foreign *literati*, a lustre on the British comedy which it did not previously possess. The

* Mr. Lacy, whose property, on the death of his father, was estimated at 80,000l. is now, with a large family, in very distressed circumstances. The writer of this biographical sketch is in possession of several curious particulars with respect to the transfer of Mr. Lacy's property in the theatre to Mr. Sheridan, which will probably, at no very distant period, be given to the public.

School

School for Scandal was performed on the 8th of May, 1777, and attracted from that late period to the conclusion of the season, the most fashionable and numerous audiences. A play of such superior merit, and written by so young an author, was rewarded with unqualified applause The critics of that time were anxiously engaged in extolling the beauties with which it abounds, and some of them were not wanting to discover others, that either do not exist, or are still unknown to the writer himself. The tide of public favour ran with irresistible impetuosity, and dramatic excellence, and the name of Sheridan, became synonimous. But, although it must ever rank as a finished piece in the simplicity of plot, in the natural progression of incident, in the faithful imitation of manners, in the vigorous and exact delineation of living character, and above all, in fertility of wit and felicity of expression; it is to be lamented, that the author did not apply himself with more care to improve the heart, and stimulate the public mind to the cultivation of morality.

The fashionable taste for Scandal is indeed exposed; but it is exposed to the laughter, not to the contempt and detestation, of the audience. It produces mirth, but does not excite execration. The hypocrite, who covers his abominable designs with the mask of honour and integrity, is indeed punished; but the punishment is not commensurate to the offence, and our abhorrence

rence is weakened by the unseasonable playfulness of the poet's satire. The author is too strenuous an advocate for dissipation of manners, and the vices of libertinism are too successfully defended.

Mr. Sheridan appears, in a great measure, to have forgotten the legitimate end of dramatic composition, and not to have been sufficiently sensible, that whatever is intended for the amusement of society at large, should also be capable of communicating solid instruction, and producing real amendment. It has been remarked, with some degree of propriety, that the characters of Joseph and Charles have been taken from Fielding's Blifil, and Tom Jones; and that the disguise assumed by Sir Oliver Surface has been borrowed from a similar incident in Mrs. Sheridan's novel. He has never published it, because, as a literary production, he says, he has no confidence in its merit: its success on the stage he ascribes to the acting of Miss Farren and Messrs. King, Palmer, and Smith.

Early in the following season, he produced the musical piece of *The Camp*, a temporary *jeu d'esprit*, which afforded much entertainment; and his *Critic*, written upon the model of the Duke of Buckingham's Rehearsal, came out on the 30th of October, 1787. The success of the Critic was complete and well deserved; and, though the subject had been very ably handled

by his ingenious predecessor, he succeeded in embellishing it with so great a variety of ludicrous incidents, and introduced such extraordinary novelty of satire, as to divest it of the slightest appearance of imitation.

The lamented death of the British Roscius, in 1779, furnished Mr. Sheridan with an opportunity of exercising powers of a very different nature; and he wrote the monody to the memory of Mr. Garrick, which was recited at Drury-lane Theatre, by Mrs. Yates, in the month of March, of the same year. The sentiments are, in general, appropriate to the occasion, and the poetry possesses strength and melody, but the effect was not adequate to the expectations of the author and his friends.

Notwithstanding the profits which he derived from his pieces, and the share he had in the theatre, which was very considerable, as he had obtained Mr. Lacy's interest in the patent, a property equally valuable with that of Mr. Garrick, and of course worth, on the lowest calculation, thirty thousand pounds, his pecuniary embarrassments had considerably increased. His domestic establishment was not only very expensive, but conducted without any kind of regularity. The persuasions of Mr. Fox, whose friendship he had carefully cultivated, operated with a firm conviction of his own abilities, in determining him to procure a seat in the house of Commons. For

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some time before he had endeavoured to qualify himself for public speaking, by declaiming at the private meetings of several of his most intimate acquaintances; and it was customary with him, like the logical disputants of antiquity, to start a subject of discussion, and *advocate* either side of the question, for the purpose of exercising his ingenuity in argument.

Mr. Sheridan was, about this time, honoured with the notice of a noble Duke, now high in office, and who then possessed great influence in opposition; and an application was made, through the medium of a common friend, to obtain his Grace's nomination of Mr. Sheridan for one of his boroughs. The application, however, proved fruitless, as the noble Duke had already completed his list, or placed little reliance on the parliamentary powers of his dramatic acquaintance.

Mr. Sheridan was not discouraged by the disappointment, and a general election taking place, in 1780, he resolved to canvass for himself, and chose the town of Stafford for the scene of his first political operations. In the adoption of that measure, he appears to have been actuated by several important considerations. The borough of Stafford was not devoted to the interest of any particular patron; it was free from all suspicion of ministerial influence, and the arts of corruption had ever tried, without effect, to undermine

the independence of the electors. At least, no legal proof has been yet brought forward to establish any instance of corruption. One of the late members, who again offered himself as a candidate, had not only become unpopular, but odious to several of the leading men of Stafford.

All these circumstances, strengthened by a pressing invitation, and a promise of the most zealous support from a principal gentleman of the place, induced Mr. Sheridan to propose himsel as a candidate to represent the borough of Stafford in the next parliament. He accordingly proceeded to the spot, and was perfectly satisfied with the pleasing prospect of success that opened to his ambition. But although he experienced uncommon disinterestedness, and great liberality of conduct in the people of Stafford, a certain degree of expence which has, for a long time, blended itself with the purest proceedings of the elective system in this country, was found unavoidable, and our young politician's resources were not in the most flourishing state. He was soon convinced, that the moderate sum of one thousand pounds was a *sine quâ non*, which alone could bring the negotiation between the new champion of liberty and the independent electors to a successful conclusion. The money was at length raised, and one of the gentlemen, who contributed to the supply, has been since liberally rewarded with an opera share.

Mr. Sheridan was accordingly returned for Stafford, and from the moment of his introduction into the house of Commons, became a firm supporter of all the measures of opposition. Though he contented himself, in the commencement of the session, with giving a silent vote against the minister, he was indefatigable without doors in seconding the views of his party, and in exciting the clamour of public indignation against the measures of government. He constantly attended popular meetings and political clubs, and his pen was employed with success in several periodical publications. He had a considerable share in the *Englishman*, which was conducted with great acrimony against the administration of Lord North; and when the Rockingham party came into power in 1782, his exertions were rewarded with the appointment of Under Secretary to Mr. Fox, then Secretary of State for the Foreign Department.

The death of the Marquis of Rockingham, and the unexpected elevation of the Earl of Shelburne to the important office of First Lord of the Treasury, completely defeated the views of opposition, and the ever-memorable coalition, for which even the strong plea of necessity is but a sorry apology, having been formed, Mr. Sheridan was once more called upon to carry on literary hostilities against the new administration. The periodical work of the *Jesuit* soon appeared, and several very distinguished members of the

party are confidently stated to have contributed to that production. A learned doctor, remarkable for his revival of the doctrine of the Greek philosoper, Pyrrho, and more celebrated for his attachment to a great character, whose name will last, notwithstanding his inconsistencies, while a single admirer of splendid and original genius shall remain in the world, than for any intellectual vigour of his own, has been mentioned as one of the authors of a paper in the Jesuit, notorious for its severe censure of an illustrious personage. The paper in question attracted the attention of government, and a prosecution was ordered to be commenced against Mr. Wilkie, the printer.

The legal proceedings were, however, carried on but slowly, and the coalition having gained a decisive victory over the new-fangled administration, formed by the Shelburne party, Mr. Sheridan was once more brought into place, and appointed, in April 1783, Secretary of the Treasury. It was extremely natural to suppose, that the Jesuit would not be attacked by those, to whose cause it had been devoted; but the spirit of prosecution, though allowed to slumber for a short interval, broke out with redoubled vigour, when his Grace of Portland was succeeded, as First Lord of the Treasury, by Mr. Pitt, and an entire change took place in men and measures.

The Attorney-General was obliged, *ex officio*, to continue the prosecution, the ground-work of which

which still existed, and Mr. Wilkie, who had the magnanimity to conceal the names of the gentlemen by whom he had been employed, was sentenced to an imprisonment of twelve months. The system of party-politics evinced in this instance, as it has in almost every other case, selfishness and ingratitude. The man who possessed the courage to expose his own person to punishment, and his circumstances to ruin, in order to screen those by whom he had been engaged in his professional pursuits, for the purpose of promoting their favourite end, was treated with neglect, and it will, with difficulty, be credited, that his expences have not been yet paid. It would, no doubt, be unjust to accuse Mr. Sheridan of having had any share in the transaction, as his acknowledged integrity must exempt him from all suspicion.

With what effect the talents of Mr. Sheridan were exerted in the discharge of his official duties, while he filled the situations of Under Secretary of State and Joint Secretary of the Treasury, it is immaterial to enquire. The whole of the time which he passed in these places was not quite a year, and the chief requisites to perform the duties of them are attention, punctuality, and dispatch—qualities in which his most enthusiastic admirers will hardly contend for his pre-eminence. Until 1783, he appeares to have been a figure introduced into the political picture, more for the

purpose of completing the group in the back ground, than of standing forward as a principal character. But the irresistible impulse of genius gave a sudden expansion to his powers, extricated him from the inferior estimation in which he was held, and placed him, if not in an equal rank with Mr. Fox and Mr. Burke, at least, in the very next to it.

His defence of Mr. Fox's celebrated East-India Bill was distinguished for logical precision; and though he had not, on previous occasions, delivered his sentiments with extraordinary ability, his speech on that interesting subject was so masterly, as to induce the public opinion to select him from the second class of parliamentary speakers. In 1785, his powers began to expand in proportion to theconfidence which he acquired in debate, and his observations on Mr. Pitt's Perfumery Bill were justly admired for splendid effusions of wit and great force of argument. But the part he took in the consideration of the Irish Propositions, which were brought forward during the same year, was peculiarly striking, and raised his reputation as an orator to a very superior degree. In calling the attention of the house to the fourth proposition, he displayed a general knowledge of the interests of both kingdoms, and a depth of investigation which the most sanguine expectations of his friends could not have anticipated; and, from that moment, he

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was viewed as a formidable opponent by the present minister, and looked up to with admiration, as a principal leader of the party to which he belonged.

Mr. Sheridan had many difficulties to encounter in his parliamentary life. His father was an actor, he had himself largely contributed to the entertainment of the public, and was the manager of a theatre. The prejudices of mankind, however ridiculous, are too often victorious over the claims of genuine merit, and would have, perhaps prevailed in intimidating any other person than the man against whom they were, in this instance, directed. Fully convinced of his decided superiority over birth and fortune, he proceeded, regardless of personal reflections; and if his opponents succeeded in irritating him by the asperity of their allusions, he met them with manly resolution, chastised them with the lash of legitimate satire, or held them up to universal ridicule in bursts of extemporaneous wit, that have never been equalled in the British senate. The conduct of the Premier, in his unguarded allusions to Mr. Sheridan's dramatic pursuits was severely punished; and that dignified manner which should mark the behaviour of the first statesman in Europe, sitting in the first assembly in Europe, was, for a moment, transformed into the quarrelsome petulance of the *angry boy*. The correction was productive of salutary effects, and

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Mr. Sheridan has completely triumphed over the splenetic and paltry efforts of his opponents to check his talents, and degrade his public character.

He was rapidly approaching to perfection, as a public speaker, and the impeachment of Mr. Hastings supplied him with an opportunity of displaying powers which were then unrivalled, but have since rather declined than sustained themselves with equal vigour. His speech delivered in the house of Commons, in April, 1787, on the eighth article, as stated in the order laid down by Mr. Burke, relative to "money corruptly and illegally taken," was allowed to equal the most argumentative and impassioned orations that had ever been addressed to the judgment and feelings of the British parliament. He fixed the uninterrupted attention of the house for upwards of five hours, confirmed the minds of those who wavered, and produced co-operation from a quarter, which, it was supposed, would have been hostile to any further proceeding.

Mr. Sheridan seems, at this period, to have been convinced of the necessity of indefatigable application and persevering industry, to support the splendid fame he had acquired, and accordingly prepared himself, with unremitting assiduity, to perform his official duties as one of the managers of the prosecution, instituted by the representatives of the people against Mr. Hastings, and

and carried on before the supreme tribunal of the nation.

In the long examination of Mr. Middleton, he gave decided proofs of a strong and discriminating mind; but when, in June 1788, he summed up the evidence on the charge, respecting the confinement and imprisonment of the Princesses of Oude, and the seizure of their treasures, his superiority over his colleagues was established by universal consent. His mind, indeed, appears to have been elevated by the importance of the subject; and he conceived its various relations with a perspicuity that was embellished by the noblest effusions of eloquence—

> "Animo vidit; ingenio complexus est;
> Eloquentiâ ornavit."

But however admirable his speech may be now considered as a composition, there were, at that time, several circumstances of magnitude and singularity, that conspired to give it a celebrity, which posterity will scarcely admit it to possess. To form a just opinion of this memorable oration, which occupied the attention of the court, and excited the admiration of the public, for five hours, it would be necessary to have heard Mr. Sheridan himself; and, to those who have not witnessed the correctness, strength, and animation of his elocution, it will be sufficient to repeat what was said by Eschines to the people of Rhodes

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in praise of the oration which had caused his banishment—"What applauses would you not have conferred, had you heard Demosthenes deliver it himself?"

It is difficult to select any part of it as the subject of peculiar encomium. The address, with which he arranged his materials; the art and force with which he anticipated objections; the unexampled ingenuity with which he commented on the evidence, and the natural boldness of his imagery, are equally entitled to panegyric. He combined the three kinds of eloquence. He was clear and unadorned—diffuse and pathetic—animated and vehement. There was nothing superfluous—no affected turn—no glittering point—no false sublimity. Compassion and indignation were alternately excited, and the wonderous effects related of the eloquence of Greece and Rome were almost revived.

Soon after this great æra in the public life of Mr. Sheridan, the deplorable indisposition of his Majesty, which plunged the country into a state of the deepest distress, led to the discussion of a question, exceeding in political magnitude every other national occurrence from the revolution of 1688 down to that time. The ministry and opposition essentially differed with respect to the means to be adopted for supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the royal authority, and Mr. Sheridan took a leading part in the attempts which

which were made to declare the Prince of Wales regent, without such restrictions as Parliament should think fit to impose. The favour in which he was held at Carleton House was certainly superior to that enjoyed by the most distinguished members of the party, and his conduct occasioned suspicions that have never been completely removed. His Royal Highness was very much in the habit of consulting Mr. Sheridan, and his answer to Mr. Pitt's letter, with respect to the restrictions on the regency, which was allowed to be dignified, cautious, and temperate, has been principally ascribed to the prudent counsels of this gentleman.'

Mr. Sheridan's zealous interference in support of his patron is, perhaps, the only instance in which he can be charged with political inconsistency. The spirit of party, and the strong prejudices of the moment, are now consigned to oblivion; and, it may be fairly asked, whether he, or any other declared advocate of the rights of the people acted consistently in opposing the following resolution, which was proposed by Mr. Pitt, and passed by the British Parliament:—

"Resolved, That it is the opinion of this committee, that it is the right and duty of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons of Great Britain, now assembled, and lawfully, fully, and freely representing all the estates of the people of this realm, to provide the means of supplying the defect of the personal exercise of the Royal

Authority,

Authority, arising from his Majesty's indisposition, in such a manner as the exigency of the case may appear to require."

Mr. Sheridan's objection to the resolution did not arise from any statement, contained in it, respecting the *full* and *free* representation of the people, but he and his friends argued against the power of both houses, in any case, to limit the authority of the regent, and contended, that the immediate nomination of the heir apparent ought to take place, as a matter of constitutional right. Those, who are sincere admirers of the British constitution, as derived from the legitimate source of authority, will not readily coincide in the doctrines advanced upon the occasion, by the leading members of opposition. But the prospect of approaching power can quiet the most conscientious scruples, and silence statements that would otherwise have been proclaimed as the inalienable rights of Englishmen, and the palladium of public security.

While his Majesty laboured under the awful visitation of Providence, it would be an endless, and indeed, a painful task, to describe the dark intrigues and cabals, carried on to encrease the strength of opposition. Every art was practised, every trick tried, to add to the number of those who were willing to fall prostrate before the rising sun, and the artifices employed were, in several instances, successful, in seducing even the minds of persons, who had enjoyed the confidence, and

shared the munificence of their sovereign. The King, reduced to the most lamentable state, which humanity can conceive, was—

> "Deserted at his utmost need,
> By those his former bounty fed."

Several meetings were held at C—r—d house, and among the visitors were the Duke of Q——y, the Marquis of L——n, and Lord M—s—y. Mr. Sheridan was a constant attendant, and an illustrious personage condescended to assist at councils, which, it must be granted, were more influenced by a true sense of public good than by any selfish and interested motives. The plans of the party were, however, fortunately baffled by the unexpected recovery of his Majesty, and their reinstatement in place was deferred to a more auspicious moment.

Mr. Sheridan has since continued a strenuous opponent of the measures of administration, and is now, in consequence of Mr. Fox's secession, placed at the head of opposition. With the single exception of his conduct on the question of the regency, his parliamentary life cannot be accused of inconsistency. He professed in common with most of his friends, an enthusiastic admiration of the French Revolution, and considered the constitution it had formed, as a glorious fabric of human wisdom, erected for the protection of human happiness; but when he saw that constitution defaced

faced and polluted by the frantic and murderous policy of the successive rulers of France, he readily concurred in reprobating crimes, which were destructive of freedom and social happiness, and directly repugnant to the principles on which the revolution was originally effected.

He has ever been the zealous supporter of parliamentary reform, and the uniform friend of the liberty of the press and religious toleration. In financial considerations, in our political and commercial relations with Ireland, and more particularly in every important discussion relative to constitutional subjects, he has evinced great depth of enquiry, and acuteness of discrimination. He has frequently risen superior to the selfish drudgery of a mere partizan, and his spirited conduct during the awful crisis of the naval mutiny, received the thanks of the minister, and will be long remembered with gratitude by the nation. He expressed his conviction, that, whatever difference in political sentiments might prevail among the members of the House of Commons, the moment was come, when his Majesty had an undoubted right to call upon all his subjects of every rank and description, for their zealous co-operation in supporting the due execution of the laws, and in giving every possible efficiency to the measures of government.

Mr. Sheridan's voice is strong and distinct, but his delivery is often precipitate, and his man-

ner unimportant. He wants the dignity of Mr. Pitt and the fire of Mr. Fox; but in the ingenuity of observation, and the felicity of reply, he is not inferior to either of them in their happiest moments. He excels in raillery, which, at once elegant and severe, is peculiarly suited to the senate. Though he seems cautiously to avoid the use of figurative diction and splendid imagery in his speeches, his celebrated oration on the trial of Mr. Hastings is an ample testimony of his ability to introduce them with the most appropriate effect.

It cannot be denied, that his propensity to epigrammatic point and humourous allusion frequently exceeds the bounds of propriety, and hurries him to a levity of remark that is at variance with the gravity of the subject in discussion. We laugh indeed for the moment, but soon condemn the speaker for trifling with a great object of national consideration. When, for instance, on the motion for repealing the act for Suspending the Habeas Corpus Act, and on the measure for arming the country, in consequence of his Majesty's message, he has talked of "an army of six men, commanded by a taylor, and encamped in a back garret," and of "foraging in fruit shops, parading in Piccadilly, and taking the field in Rotten-row;"—who can avoid condemning what certainly is not authorized by the artifice, much less by the art, of eloquence? The

rules of public conduct, like the laws of the drama, are founded in consistency; and with the latter Mr. Sheridan cannot be unacquainted,—

"Singula quæque locum teneant sortita decenter."

There has appeared of late in his speeches a negligence, that is evidently caused by momentary indolence, or the want of previous application; and the observation made by the first statesman of the country, that "however greatly he admired the talents of Mr. Sheridan, he was confident that gentleman might exert them with more effect," is perfectly correct. "Honied assent, so pleasant to the taste of man," has ever been peculiarly grateful to Mr. Sheridan's feelings, and a cheer from the opposition bench, excited by some brilliant effusion of wit, has often suppressed in him any farther display of ability in debate. He had gained what he so much courted, and he resolved to preserve it undiminished.

Mrs. Sheridan died in June, 1792, and he has a son by that lady, who possesses considerable abilities. In 1795, he married Miss Ogle, youngest daughter of the Reverend Doctor Newton Ogle, Dean of Winchester. The issue of his second marriage is also a son.

His conduct as manager and principal proprietor of the first theatre in the kingdom, and his punctuality in the discharge of the duties contracted

tracted by him in that situation, have rarely been the subject of praise.

In private life, Mr. Sheridan is one of the most entertaining and instructive companions in the kingdom. His conversation abounds in witty similitudes, humorous allusions, and lively repartee; and when any subject of enlarged investigation is brought forward, the treasures of general learning, with which he has stored his mind, are proportionate to the exigency of the moment. It is, perhaps, in the knowledge of human nature that he surpasses all his contemporaries. His sagacity has been particularly exercised in discovering the character and propensities of his acquaintances, or of those with whom he has any business to transact, and he generally succeeds in converting this kind of knowledge to his own advantage.

After a retirement of twenty years from the stage, Mr. Sheridan came forward, at the end of last season, in the humble situation of the editor of Kotzebue, the celebrated German dramatist, and appears, in that instance, to have been more actuated by his interest as a manager, than by the generous feelings of a writer, emulous of lasting fame. To gratify the public taste for scenes of exquisite sensibility, supported by incidents, sometimes impossible, and, in almost every case, improbable; and to strengthen the exhibition by the attractions of striking machinery, scenic grandeur, and appropriate music,

was evidently the object which he had in view in that strange degradation of superior talents. The pressing wants of the theatre, and of those dependent upon its success, called for instantaneous relief, and the most likely mode of procuring it was an unqualified compliance with popular absurdity.

> "For we who live to please, must please to live,"

is the only apology he can make, for the prostitution of his muse.

It would seem, that Mr. Sheridan had altogether forgotten he had written the *Critic*; for there are very few scenes or passages in *Pizarro*, which can escape the just satire and humorous ridicule contained in that production. He has, indeed, condescended, in his alteration of the *Death of Rolla*, to revive the character of the ingenious Mr. *Puff*; for the most prejudiced mind must feel how very pointedly Mr. Sheridan's observations in the Critic apply to the favourite tragedy of Pizzaro:—"Now then for my magnificence! my battle! my noise! and my procession!—Smaller things must give way to a striking scene at the opening; that's the rule:—A play is not to shew occurrences that happen every day, but things just so strange, that though they never did, they might happen." But the criticisms of Mr. Sheridan were no longer remembered; sound and shew triumphed over common sense; the numerous admirers of sensibility, tor-

tured to excess, were gratified; the votaries of pompous exhibition and romance were indulged in their favourite passion; and Pizarro, with all its defects, recommended by the joint reputation of Kotzebue and Sheridan, attracted more numerous and fasionable audiences than have ever attended an English theatre.

The speech of Rolla, exhorting the Peruvians to defend their king and country, their civil and religious institutions, against a ferocious band of lawless invaders, was highly instrumental to the success of the piece, and it is the only passage of the play to which Mr. Sheridan has an exclusive claim. The appeal to the people in support of their rights and national independence, is bold and animating. The striking image of the vulture and the lamb, is, however, used with more effect in his speech on the impeachment of Mr. Hastings; but his right to borrow from himself cannot be questioned.

The genius of the German dramatist is unquestionably of the first order. In conducting a passion through its most intricate mazes, he is, perhaps, unequalled, and he seldom fails to produce emotions of the most agonizing kind. But probability, the genuine source of concern and dramatic feeling, is too frequently violated. An instant's reflection is sufficient to expose the delusion of the scene, and destroy the interest which the skill of the poet creates.

Mr. Sheridan must be convinced, that, with the exception of Rolla's patriotic harangue, Pizarro is more indebted for its popularity to the merits of the original, to the actor, the machinist, the painter, and the composer, than to any alterations he has made, or to any judgment he has evinced in adapting it to the English stage. It is to be lamented, that he has, by this motley exhibition, degraded his reputation as the first dramatic writer of the country, and sunk himself to a level with the play-wrights of the day, to whom profit is every thing, and fame nothing. It remains for him to shake off that indolence, which appears to have become constitutional, and make a satisfactory atonement, by some work of genius, for his mercenary conduct in confirming the vitiated state of public taste, against which he contended, in 1779, with so much energy and success.

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THE HON. THOMAS ERSKINE,

THE subject of these pages, is the third ſon of the late Earl of Buchan, and youngest brother to the present Earl; the second holds an eminent station at the Scotch bar. There are no satisfactory documents of the youthful part of his history. It is, however, well known that he entered very early in life into the navy, a service for which he had imbibed a strong predilection.

He went to sea with the late Sir John Lindsay, nephew of the great Earl of Mansfield. He never, it is believed, had the commission of lieutenant, but acted for some time in that capacity, by the appointment of his captain. His reasons for quitting the navy are said to have been the slender chances of his promotion, ; and having only served as a lieutenant by the friendship of his commander, he was unwilling, after having been honoured with such a distinction, to return to sea in the inferior capacity of midshipman.

He entered into the army as an ensign in the Royals, or first regiment of foot, in the year 1768, not so much from inclination, (as it is said,) as because his father with a small and strictly entailed estate, had not the means of assisting him, with convenience, to pursue one of the learned professions. He went with this regi-

ment to Minorca, in which island he spent three years, and continued in the army about six.

During the period he continued in the army, he had acquired considerable reputation for the acuteness and versatility of his talents in conversation. Mr. Boswell, who met him about this time in a mixed company in London, mentions, in his Memoirs of Dr. Johnson, the delight which the Doctor and himself felt from the ability of a gentleman, who was no other than Mr. Erskine, in discoursing on some temporary topic which, at that time, happened to be an interesting question of dispute in the circles of the metropolis.

Whether the consciousness of these powers, or the suggestions of his friends, or the embarrassments of a scanty income, first invited him to make preparations for the study of the law, it is of no importance to enquire. The resolution, from whatever cause it proceeded, must, in a great measure, have been supported by that internal confidence in his own talents, which is inseparable from great and elevated minds; from the spirit of adventure, which is incidental to genius, which overlooks slight obstacles, and is invincible by ordinary difficulties. There is a fashion among biographical writers, to discover in the person whose life they are writing, an innate original predisposition for the peculiar department of science or literature in which he has been eminent, forgetting that, in the nature

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of things, the pursuit must be wholly accidental, and that "in every region of the air," the flight of powerful intellect must be equally lofty and vigorous. It has, however, been said, and we have reason to believe with truth, that Mr. Erskine had no merit whatsoever in the extraordinary adventure of embarking in so new and arduous a pursuit, but that it was literally and most unwillingly forced upon him by the importunities of his mother, the Countess of Buchan, after the death of his father; and that the hopes of succeeding in it were fortified and kept alive against his own prepossessions, by her counsel and persuasions. Although, in the privacy of domestic life, the greatest characters and the brightest talents may pass away without record and remembrance, she was a lady of most uncommon acquirements and singular penetration. She thought, no doubt, that she perceived the capacity of her son, and in the confidence of parental affection, planned out this scheme of his future destination, while he was absent in the army at Minorca.

Mr. Erskine was about twenty-six when he commenced his course of legal study. He entered as a Fellow-Commoner of Trinity-College in Cambridge, in the year 1777; and, at the same time, inserted his name as a student on the books of Lincoln's Inn. One of his college declamations is still extant, as it was delivered in Trinity-College Chapel. The thesis was the revolution of 1688. It displays

plays no ordinary powers of language, and it is easy to discover, in some of its passages, the elements, as it were, of that forensic eloquence in which he afterwards acquired so unequalled a pre-eminence. It would be too mean a praise to say that it bears very striking features of superiority over the declamations which are usually produced on those occasions. It gained the first prize, which he refused to accept, not attending Cambridge as a student, and only declaiming in conformity to the rules of the college. An Ode, written by Mr. Erskine, about this time, in imitation of Gray's Bard, is worthy of notice as a sportive production of his fancy: it has been lately published in the Monthly Magazine. It originated in an occasion truly humorous. Mr. Erskine had been disappointed by his barber, who neglected his usual attendance upon him, and prevented him from dining in the College-hall. In the moment of disappointment, hunger and impatience, he is supposed to have poured forth a malediction against the whole race of barbers, with a denunciation, prophetic of a future taste for cropping and unpowdered hair.

Mr. Erskine did not enter into the University for any academical purpose, but merely to obtain a degree to which he was entitled as the son of a nobleman, and by which he saved two years and a half in his passage to the bar. His education had been completed in Scotland before. His father, one of the most accomplished men

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of his time, had uniformly felt an extraordinary solicitude as to the education of his children, and actually removed from his family estate in Scotland for the purpose of residing at St. Andrew's, where he continued many years. During this time he procured for them a private tutor, one of the most elegant scholars of that part of the island, to assist their studies at the School and University. Mr. Erskine always pursued the study of the Belles Lettres with unremitted ardour, and had the advantage of imbibing from the most eminent persons of the day, that various and extended knowledge, which can never be derived from books, or solitary application. In order to acquire a necessary knowledge of the mechanical parts of his future profession, he was persuaded, by the judicious counsels of his friends, to enter as a pupil into the office of Mr. Buller, then an eminent special pleader at the bar, and since promoted to a distinguished station on the Bench.

It need not be dissembled that, during this period of his life, Mr. Erskine was subject to the necessities of a very limited income. He had been already married about four years, and was obliged to adhere to a most rigid frugality of expenditure. Of these circumstances of his history, many of the particulars have, with great ingenuousness, been mentioned to his friends by Mr. Erskine himself.

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In reviewing the difficulties he had encountered, and in contrasting them with the brilliant prosperity of his later years, he must now feel a peculiar gratification; because by an involuntary impulse he must have attributed his extraordinary elevation to the endowments allotted to him by nature, rather than to the caprice or partialities of fortune. The part sustained by Mrs. Erskine, before the cloud that overhung their first entrance into life was dissipated, is highly honourable to her feelings; she accompanied him to Minorca, followed his fortunes with the most cheerful constancy, and, while he was engaged in the pursuits of a most laborious profession, never suffered any pleasure or amusement to interrupt her in the assiduous duties of domestic life.

While he remained in the office of Mr. Buller he pursued the business of the desk with unremitted activity and ardor; and, on Mr. Buller's promotion, went into the office of Mr. Wood, where he continued a year after he had been in considerable business at the bar. Special pleading, though not unfrequently considered as the mechanical part of the profession, has lately arrived at a higher dignity than lawyers of former times were willing to allow it. The absolute and hourly necessity of it is now recognized by every one who is conversant with the business of our courts of justice. It consists in a sort of

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analytical correctness, and its highest utility is derived from the habits of artificial acuteness, which it imparts, and the nice and skilful subtleties, on which it is perpetually occupied. Although Mr. Erskine never practised as a professed special pleader, the notion of his being ignorant of that branch of the legal science, is founded in the grossest misrepresentation. No one understands the principles of that science more correctly; nor is any one more dexterous in the seasonable application of them, as a species of *law logic*; a phrase, by which the late Sir William Jones accurately defined the art of the Special Pleader.

In what manner our advocate cultivated the acts of popular declamation, does not clearly appear. It has been said, that he was an assiduous attendant at Coach-maker's Hall, where a debating club of some estimation was at that time held. But the style of Mr. Erskine's oratory bears internal testimony against this assertion. The eloquence that is cultivated in these societies is altogether of a nature, remote from the uses of the bar, or the senate. The debates of the evening are for the most part conducted by a set of speakers, or rather spouters, who vociferate a collection of crude declamatory sentences to a tumultuous audience, which, taking no cognizance of felicities of style or diction, bestows its applause on the orator, who makes the greatest noise,

noise, and acts his part with the greatest vehemence. Such are not the academic shades, in which English eloquence is nurtured. Perhaps the most distinguished of our orators have acquired their perfection in public speaking, more by silent meditation and study, than by declaiming in public. Unquestionably he can never be a good speaker, who has been habituated to that noisy rant, of which the greatest praise is a rapidity of utterance, and by which the rules and harmony of the language are exposed to perpetual violence, and perversion.

He had now completed the probationary period allotted to the attendance in the inns at court; and was called to the bar in the Trinity Term 1778. Mr. Erskine is a singular exception to the tardy advancement of professional merit at the English bar. It is not worth enquiring, how long he continued a mute auditor in the back benches of the court, amongst the crowd of young men, who may be, not unaptly, compared to the ghosts that linger on the banks of the Styx for a passage over the lake; but, by a singular partiality of fortune, he was not tortured by the "hope deferred," and the sickening expectation, of a brief in Westminster-Hall, which so many men of promising talents are doomed to undergo: an opportunity was almost immediately afforded him of distinguishing himself in Westminster-Hall. Captain Baillie, who had been removed

removed from the government in Greenwich Hospital by Lord Sandwich, then First Lord of the Admiralty and one of the Governors of Greenwich Hospital, had been charged with having published a libel against that nobleman, and the Attorney-General was instructed to move for leave to file a criminal information against him; this was the occasion of Mr. Erskine's first speech in court. In opposing the motion of the Attorney-General, an opportunity presented itself to him of entering into the merits of the case in behalf of Captain Baillie. He expatiated upon the services which had been rendered by his client, on the firmness with which he resisted the intrigue and artifice to which he attributed the prosecution set on foot against him.

In the course of this speech, he attacked the noble earl in a tone of sarcastic and indignant invective. Lord Mansfield interrupted him more than once, but the advocate did not abate of the severity of his animadversions.—It was at that time no common spectacle, to observe a man, so little known to the court and the bar, commenting, with asperity of remark, on the conduct of a powerful statesman who held an elevated post in the administration, and distinguishing himself by a species of confidence not usually felt in early efforts of public speaking, under circumstances that rendered it more prudent to abstain from personal severity, and to conciliate the court he

was

was addressing. These strictures on Lord Sandwich are unquestionably severe; but, if any faith is to be had in the testimony of his cotemporaries, both in office and in opposition, they are not unfounded. Colonel Luttrell, speaking of him in the House of Commons, observed of him, with a pointed eloquence, that "*there is in his conduct such a sanctimonious composure of guilt, that the rarity and perfection of the vice almost constituted it a virtue.*"

This was the first trial of his talents at the bar, having been called only in Trinity Term, and having been employed for Captain Baillie in the Michaelmas Term following. He is said to have been indebted for this opportunity to no interference, recommendation, or connexion. His acquaintance with Captain Baillie originated from his having accidently met him at the table of a common friend. Almost immediately afterwards Mr. Erskine appeared at the bar of the House of Commons, as Counsel for Mr. Carnan, the bookseller, against a Bill introduced by Lord North, then Prime Minister, to re-vest in the Universities the monopoly in Almanacks, which Mr. Carnan had succeeded in abolishing by legal judgments, and he had the good fortune to place the noble lord in a considerable minority upon a division.

To the reputation which these speeches conferred upon him, it has been said, that he refers the subsequent success he has experienced in his pro-

fession, and that, as he left the court upon that occasion, nearly thirty briefs were offered to him by the attornies who were present. He was now surrounded by clients, and occupied by business. Of the various cases in which he was employed, it would be absurd to expect any mention, as they consisted only of the ordinary and daily transactions of the Term and the Sittings.

The public feelings were now altogether occupied by the interesting trial of Admiral Keppel. Mr. Erskine was retained as Counsel for the Admiral; a circumstance that was owing to the ignorance which the Counsel, Mr. Dunning and Mr. Lee, (who were originally engaged,) displayed of the sea phrases, without some knowledge of which the case was in a great measure unintelligible. Mr. Dunning recommended Mr. Erskine as qualified for the duty, having been made acquainted with the manner in which he had passed the former part of his life.

The duty of a Counsel before a Court Martial is very limited by the rules and usages of the court: he is not permitted to put any question to the witnesses; but he may suggest to his client such as occur to him as necessary to be asked; nor is he suffered to address the court; and almost the only assistance he can render is in the arrangement of his defence, and the communication of such remarks on the evidence as are most likely to be present only to the minds of those

who are habituated to the rules of testimony in courts of justice. This service was most effectually and ably rendered by Mr. Erskine. Having drawn his defence, Mr. Erskine, personally examined all the Admirals and Captains of the fleet, and satisfied himself that he could substantiate the innocence of his client, before the speech which he had written for him was read. For his exertions on this memorable occasion, Mr. Erkine received a thousand guineas. It was the proudest office of his life to have saved a good and honourable man from disgrace, and even amidst the splendors of his succeeding fortunes, Mr. Erskine ought to look back on this event with renewed satisfaction and triumph.

He was now in possession of the best *second business* in the King's Bench.—By the phrase *second business* is meant that sort of business in which the lead is not given to the Counsel who are not yet arrived at the dignity of a silk gown, and of a seat within the bar of the court : but an event took place which called his talents into activity on a most memorable occasion. The riots of 1780 are alluded to. Every one knows the universal consternation, which at that time agitated the kingdom ; when the security of the nation was threatened in the destruction of the capital. After the extinction of these tumults, the vigilance of the magistracy was exercised in directing the insulted justice of the country against the actors in

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that dreadful conflagration. The participation of these outrages attributed to Lord George Gordon is well known. On his guilt, or innocence, it would be indecorous in us to pronounce an opinion. There is a veneration always due to the verdict of juries; and it would be a sort of political blasphemy to call the rectitude of their decision into suspicion.

Mr. Erskine, however, was retained Counsel for his lordship, in conjunction with Mr. Kenyon, now the learned chief of the King's Bench. The duty which more immediately devolved on Mr. Erskine, was that of replying to the evidence; a duty, which he sustained with infinite judgment and spirit. His speech on this trial abounds with many of the most finished graces of rhetoric. It is rapid and impetuous; and altogether in that style and character which are most impressive in judicial assemblies. The exordium is after the artificial method of the ancients, who never begin an oration without an appeal to the tribunal they are addressing, upon the embarrassments and peril of the function they have undertaken. "I stand," said Mr. Erskine, "much more in need of compassion, than the noble prisoner. He rests secure in conscious innocence, and in the assurance that his innocence will suffer no danger in your hands. But I appear before you a young and inexperienced advocate; little conversant with courts of criminal justice;

and sinking under the dreadful consciousness of that inexperience."

There is, perhaps, no department of his profession, in which our advocate has reached higher excellence, than in his observations on evidence. The defence of Lord George Gordon required the exercise of these powers to their amplest extent; as the case on the part of the crown was supported by a variety of witnesses. Having delivered to the jury the doctrine of High Treason, as it had been established by the celebrated act of Edward the Third, and as it was expounded in the best authorities, he made a most dexterous application of those rules, to the evidence, which had been adduced. They who study this speech will observe, with emotions of admiration, the subtleties with which he abates the force of the testimony he is encountering, and the artful eloquence with which he exposes its defects, and its contradictions. "I say, *by God*, that man is a ruffian, who, on such evidence as this, seeks to establish a conclusion of guilt," he exclaimed, as he was finishing this topic of his defence. An impassioned mode of exclamation, which, though it may find some apology in the perpetual example of Cicero, is not suited to the chastity and soberness of English eloquence. Of this speech, the concluding sentence is truly pathetic. We scarcely hesitate to pronounce this to be the best effort of Mr. Erskine's talents: it does not, indeed, display the minute beauties of cultivated diction,

diction, nor those grave remarks of moral wisdom with which his later speeches, in imitation of Mr. Burke, are pregnant; but, considered in reference to the occasion on which it was delivered, it is a most astoniſhing effort of vigourous and polished intellect.

In the month of May, 1783, Mr. Erskine received the honour of a silk gown: his Majesty's Letters of Precedency being conferred upon him, as it has been said, at the personal suggestion of the venerable Lord Mansfield. To this distinction, his portion of the business, and his acknowledged talents, gave him an unanswerable pretension. Mr. Erskine is a remarkable instance of a rapid advancement to this honour, not having been at the bar quite five years. His business was now considerably augmented, and he succeeded to that place which had been so long occupied by Mr. Dunning.

It would be impossible, with the space allotted to this article, to give an account of the causes pleaded by Mr. Erskine, his exertions being, for the most part occupied in the transactions of daily occurrence which are discussed in our courts of justice: of these there are no other documents than the journals of the day, from which fidelity of statement cannot be expected.

In no part of his professional engagements has Mr. Erskine deserved or acquired an higher reputation than in the mode of conducting trials for

crim. con. It has frequently fallen to his lot to be concerned in behalf of plaintiffs in these actions, a circumstance which has given him considerable advantage; for, besides the attention which is sure to be afforded to accusing eloquence, the sympathies of mankind are naturally in alliance with him who hurls his invective against the disturber of the genial bed, and the invader of conjugal happiness; and alarming as the frequency of these causes may be, yet the torrent of public licentiousness has received no slight impediment from the indignant feelings of the world, and the exemplary damages awarded by juries. To this honourable and useful end, the eloquence of the advocate is subservient. He calls into activity the slumbering emotions, and the virtuous sensibilities of men, into a sort of league against the crime he denounces. Mr. Erskine's speech, in the memorable cause of Sykes and Parslow, is still remembered, by those who heard it, as an uncommon effort of rhetorical ability.

Mr. Erskine has also been concerned in some of the remarkable causes for *crim. con.* on behalf of defendants. His exertions are well known in the memorable cases of Baldwin against Oliver, tried at York, and the recent one of Sir Henry Vane Tempest, in both which cases there were but one shilling damages; the husbands having let loose their wives upon the world, and, in some respect,

respect, being accessary to their prostitution. And, on these occasions, Mr. Erskine has done equal service to the cause of morality and virtue, by pointing out the infamy of unyoking the female passions from the restraints of conjugal protection and domestic attachments. His speech in Howard against Bingham will be long remembered at the bar: it contains a most affecting apology for the lady, who was married against her consent, while her affections had been bestowed upon another: it abounds with pathetic remarks on the harshness and cruelty of chaining down to a man, whom she hated, a young and beautiful woman, and, for purposes of family arrangement or ambition, dedicating her life to a reluctant discharge of duties, the obligations of which she could not perceive, and the conditions of which she could not sustain. In this speech there is no apology for vice, but an excuse for human frailty, which is pleaded with great warmth and great eloquence.

From the infinite variety of these causes in which he has been concerned, it is not extraordinary that he should have acquired too artificial and common-place a method of putting his topics: but it cannot justly be reproached to Mr. Erskine, that the perpetual reiteration of these transactions should, in a great measure, have exhausted his store of expression and of thinking on these subjects: this is not poverty, but exhausted wealth,—the indigence arising from too lavish a prodigality of his

opulence. He who looks for a perfect model of the style of Mr. Erskine, must examine his speech on the trial of Stockdale. When the charges against Mr. Hastings were published by the House of Commons, a Mr. Logie, a Clergyman of the church of Scotland, and a friend of the Governor-General, wrote a tract, in which those charges were investigated with some acrimony, but with considerable warmth and vigor: the pamphlet being considered as libellous, by a resolution of the House, a criminal information was filed by the Attorney-General against Stockdale, who was the publisher, for a libel.

In the course of his defence of Stockdale, Mr. Erskine urged many collateral topics in favour of Mr. Hastings, in a style of fervid and ornamented eloquence Adverting to the charges preferred against Mr. Hastings, he expatiates on the obvious absurdity exhibited by a power, guilty of rapine and oppression, in presuming to sit in judgment upon those to whom its authority had been delegated, and by whom its own tyranny had been exercised. He dwells upon the ridiculous conduct of a nation, proceeding in its iniquitous career of plunder and rapacity, in saying to the subordinate instruments of its usurpation, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther;" that a great empire was to be preserved by Mr. Hastings, and that it was only to be preserved by the means which were used to acquire it; by acts of rigorous and severe authority. He then takes notice

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notice of the violation of human happiness, for which the nation was responsible, in the exercise of her eastern dominion; concluding the topic in the following strain of energetic oratory:—

"Gentlemen; you are touched by this way of considering the subject; and I can account for it. I have been talking of man, and his nature, not as they are seen through the cold medium of books, but as I have myself seen them in climes reluctantly submitting to our authority. I have seen an indignant savage chief surrounded by his subjects, and holding in his hand a bundle of sticks, the notes of his unlettered eloquence. 'Who is it,' said the jealous ruler of a forest, encroached upon by the restless foot of English adventure, 'Who is it that causes these mountains to lift up their lofty head? Who raises the winds of the winter, and calms them again in the summer? The same Being who gave to you a country on your side of the water, and ours to us on this.'

This is, perhaps, a species of rhetorical ornament more figurative than our national eloquence, which does not tolerate the boldness of the prosopopeia, seems strictly to admit; yet it is impossible not to be struck with the sublimity of the passage. The exertions of Mr. Erskine procured the acquittal of the defendant.

Of this speech the faults and the beauties are equally obvious: it is too elaborate and artificial in

in its texture; its sentences are too much burdened with epithets, and it wants the charm and the ornament of simplicity: under some restrictions, it may be said *abundat dulcibus vitiis.* In the beginning of this harangue, he has displayed a regard for his own profession truly honourable to his feelings; and it is not the least praise which is due to his professional character, that he is never known to omit any opportunity of paying a tribute of respect to the bar, of which he is the most shining ornament and example.

Mr. Erskine was elected member of parliament for Portsmouth in the year 1783; an honour which he probably derived from the reputation he had acquired at the Court Martial which sat there on the trial of Admiral Keppel. His political character may be extracted from his speeches in courts of justice, as well as from his uniform conduct in parliament: whether the consistency of his course is to be attributed to a singular felicity of fortune, or to the demands which his business has at all times had on his time and his exertions, and which rendered his political ambition subordinate to his love of professional fame; yet the praise of inflexible patriotism, and a rigid adherence to the men and measures he approved, will hardly be disputed to him.

From no transaction of his life is a greater and more permanent reputation derived by Mr. Erskine than in his noble struggles in defence of

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the trial by jury. The law, as it is now expounded by Mr. Fox's Bill, which Mr. Erskine paved the way for in the courts, and seconded and supported in parliament, is a monument erected to his patriotism and ability. A strange paradox had crept into the judicial practice, which restricting the power of juries in questions of libel to the arbitrary interpretation of the judges, reduced it in fact to a shadow and a nullity. A rule derived from the venal opinion and practice of bad judges in bad times, was adopted by honest and upright men from real conviction, and a sense of duty in adhering to what they conceived to be precedent and authority. The question had already been frequently agitated in trials for libel. It had exercised the pen and tongues of the ablest lawyers, and had been discussed in the luminous and elegant letters of Junius. It was reserved for Mr. Erskine, in his celebrated argument in support of a rule for a new trial in the Dean of St. Asaph's case, to concentrate all the doctrines, and to combine all the reasonings, which lay scattered over so many volumes of legal learning. In this elaborate argument, he most triumphantly established his position; that juries were judges of the law as well as the fact. Upon the principles laid down in this speech, Mr. Fox framed his immortal Bill; which, though it received the most acrimonious opposition, in both houses of legislature, has at length happily rescued the question from controversy, by the establish-

establishment of a criterion, to which the rights and duties of juries may at all times be referred.

On the original trial of the Dean of St. Asaph, at Shrewsbury, where Mr. Erskine appeared as counsel for the Dean, a special verdict was delivered by the Jury, finding the defendant guilty only of *the fact of publishing*. Mr. Justice Buller, who presided at the trial, desired them to reconsider it, as it could not be recorded in the terms in which they expressed it. On this occasion, Mr. Erskine insisted that the verdict should be recorded, as it was found. This was resisted by the Judge, who meeting with unusual opposition from the Counsel, peremptorily told him to sit down, or he should compel him. "My Lord," returned Mr. Erskine, "I will not sit down—Your Lordship may do your duty, but I will do mine." The Judge was silent. It would have been more consistent with the dignity of the Court, if the threat, which he did not feel himself prepared to execute, had not escaped the learned Judge. Mr. Erskine concludes his argument in this case, with this sentiment:

"It was the first command, and counsel of my youth, always to do what my conscience told me to be my duty; and to leave the consequences to God. I shall carry with me the memory, and I trust the practice, of this parental lesson to the grave. I have hitherto followed it, and have no reason to complain, that my obedience to it has been even a temporal sacrifice. I

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have found, on the contrary, the road to prosperity and wealth; and I shall point it out as such to my children."

The independence exhibited by our advocate on every occasion, threw upon him the defences of persons prosecuted for sedition or libel by Government. No reasoning can be more uncandid, than to infer that his political opinions had any real sympathy with those entertained by the numerous race of libellers, who resorted to him for legal protection. They know but little of the duty of a Counsel who reason in this manner. As a servant of the public, he is bound by the obligations of professional honor, to afford his assistance to those who engage him in their behalf. It is the privilege of the accused, in a free country, to be heard impartially and equitably, and to be tried by the fair interpretation of the laws to which he is amenable. They who imagine that the advocate identifies with his own, the opinions and acts of the party he is representing, are carried away by erroneous reasonings, tending, in their consequences, to deprive the innocent of protection, by denying a fair measure of justice to the guilty. This sense of duty Mr. Erskine has carried to an honorable extreme, not having been deterred from it by the malignant representations of party calumny, nor tempted to abandon it by the hopes and promises of professional promotion. His defence, however, of Paine, occasioned his sudden dismission

mission from the office he held as Attorney General to the Prince of Wales. It is unnecessary to inquire who were the advisers at Carlton-House upon this occasion; it is sufficient to say, that the measure was dictated by minds of too weak a texture, and too contracted a size, to comprehend either the duties of an English advocate, or the rights of an English subject. In justice, however, to the Prince, there is no reason to believe that he approved of the measure, or willingly acceded to it. In those moments of political phrenzy, it was forced upon him by those who could not feel the enlarged and liberal sentiments of that great personage on such an occasion, and who were not ashamed to make use of the most unworthy instruments of political artifice and intrigue, having no other political science than that of pursuing objects most familiar to their minds, by means most adapted to their understandings.

The most brilliant event in Mr. Erskine's professional life was the part cast upon him in conjunction with Mr. Gibbs, in the State Trials, in the year 1794. The accused gentlemen looked to Mr. Erskine as their instrument of safety. He undertook their several defences with an enthusiasm that rendered him insensible to the fatigues of a long and continued exertion: nothing was omitted that could elucidate their innocence; nothing overlooked that tended to weaken the force of the case stated against them by the Crown Lawyers.

yers. These trials lasted several days: the public expectation hung upon them with most inconceivable anxiety, and the feelings of good men and virtuous citizens accompanied the accused to their trial, with hopes, not unmixed with apprehension, that, from their acquittal, the liberty of the subject would receive additional strength and confirmation.

One of Mr. Erskine's latest speeches was upon the prosecution of Paine's Age of Reason. It is a signal blessing, in an age when the sentiment is openly undervalued and despised, that men of great talents should display a lively sensibility to the obligations of religion, as the best auxiliant of morality and conscience, and that they should employ their eloquence and their reason, the best gift of God to man, in impressing on the general mind the consolations derived from the truths it has imparted.

The character of this great man is reflected by the actions of a life spent in the active exercise of an honourable occupation. His various talents, even by the violence of party, have not once been questioned. To say that he is unequal in his intellectual efforts, is to say little more than may be affirmed of the greatest men who have flourished in eloquence, in poetry, or philosophy. Let him, however, who desires to frame a correct estimate of his powers, attend the Court in which they are hourly exercised: let him not build his judgment on an insulated specimen; let him pursue his mind, as it were,

to the context, and combine his diversified merits in the endless variety of causes on which he is occupied: let him remark the facility of transition with which he glides to the successive transactions of the day; the correctness with which he narrates and details their circumstances, and the unceasing pliability of his mind on subjects of such various and discordant natures.

It would be gratifying to exhibit the domestic character of Mr. Erskine. He has four sons and four daughters; and, in the bosom of his family, he finds a soothing relaxation from the cares and agitations of his public engagements. Whatever time he can snatch from the accumulated mass of labours with which he is surrounded, is devoted to social intercourses with his friends and his family. No man is endued with a greater share of constitutional vivacity *: he is sportive, and almost puerile in his relaxations; a circumstance not unfrequently found in the history of men of genius.

Upon these topics we cannot enlarge. In this memoir an attempt has been made to exhibit his public character with fairness and impartiality. Of his private virtues, it would be indecorous to make any enumeration. *Integritætem atque abstinentiam in tanto viro referre injuria virtutum fuerit.* Tacit. in vit. Agric.

C. H.

* We never have seen a portrait which does justice to the expression and vivacity of his countenance. We do not think the artist who drew the sketch in our frontispiece has been more happy than his predecessors.

THE REV. DR. PARR.

OF this profound scholar and upright man, we wish our plan would admit of a more ample account; as well to gratify our own feelings, by paying the tribute due to his extraordinary merits; as to indulge the curiosity of our readers, so justly excited by the celebrity of his name. But where much is said in commendation of a living character, a great deal will be regarded as adulation, or ascribed to the partiality of friendship; we shall, therefore, be cautious that we do not expose ourselves, to the suspicion of having wandered from the truth.

Doctor Parr was born at Harrow on the Hill on the 26th of January 1746-7. His father was a surgeon and apothecary of considerable practice. He received his education chiefly under Dr. Thackeray, and partly under Dr. Robert Sumner, at the school which has so highly distinguished the place of his birth. He was head boy at fourteen, and contemporary there with Mr. Sheridan, and with the late Sir William Jones.

From Harrow the doctor was sent to Emanuel College, Cambridge, where his genius and learning soon became eminently conspicuous, and procured him the notice and friendship of the first literary characters.

The activity of his mind was but ill calculated for the indolence of an academical life, and accordingly,

cordingly, as soon as it was possible for him to emerge from it, and before he was twenty years old, he became head-assistant in the school at which he had been brought up. He continued in that capacity, governing boys with whom he had played, till the death of Dr. Sumner. Having been a candidate to succeed him, but rejected on account of his youth, the doctor removed from Harrow, and opened a school at Stanmore. His disappointment at the former place served to manifest the attachment of his boys, who, we have heard, broke out in rebellion on the occasion. During his stay at Harrow, he was ordained by Dr. Terrick, Bishop of London in the year 1769. At Stanmore, among many others, Mr. Maurice, the learned author of "Indian Antiquities," and of a "History of Hindostan," became his pupil.

From Stanmore the doctor, in the spring of 1777, removed to Colchester, on being appointed master of an endowed school in that town; he there cultivated the friendship of Dr. Forster, and Mr. Twining, and spent his leisure in the most agreeable society. Thence, in the year 1778, he departed, to superintend a similar institution in the city of Norwich.

During his residence at Norwich in the year 1781, the doctor was admitted to his degree of LL. D. at Cambridge. His thesis was much applauded, and great importunity was used to prevail on him to publish it.

Hitherto he had lived unknown to the world as a writer, but the public now began to reap the fruits of his studies. Being requested to preach a sermon for the benefit of the charity schools, the force of his eloquence, and the beauty of his composition astonished and enraptured the whole congregation. Application was made to him a second time, on the like occasion; and again he lent his aid. The two discourses were afterwards published.

While the doctor resided at Norwich, the Rev. Edward Maltby, now Chaplain to the Bishop of Lincoln, and Rector of Bugden, ranked among the number of his pupils. Of that gentleman he has never been heard to speak, but in terms of the warmest affection and the highest applause. In the year 1783, Dr. Lowth evinced his wonted discernment of merit, and in token of his esteem promoted Dr. Parr to a prebend in the cathedral church of St. Paul.

In the year 1785, Lady Trafford presented him to the perpetual curacy of Hatton, a village in the neighbourhood of Warwick. Having resigned his school at Norwich, and likewise the living of Asterby in Lincolnshire, he removed, early in 1786, from the fatigue and hurry of public teaching, to reside at his parsonage in Warwickshire Here the doctor, after enlarging and otherwise considerably improving the house, devoted his leisure to the private tuition of seven pupils,

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whose minds he enriched with a taste for moral purity, no less than for literary excellence. His treatment of them was, in all respects, perfectly paternal: and an attachment as truly filial has been manifested by most of them towards him.

In the year 1787, the doctor assisted the late Mr. Henry Homer, formerly of Emanuel College, Cambridge, in preparing a new edition of the three books of Bellendenus "de Statu;" to which he wrote the celebrated preface: which is, perhaps, the finest specimen of modern Latinity extant in the whole learned world. To each book the doctor likewise wrote an appropriate dedication in his own inimitable manner—remarkable for strength of thought and felicity of expression. Of his engagement with Mr. Homer, and of the rise and progress of that work, he himself has given a minute and interesting detail in his last publication*. To that tract we beg leave to refer the curious reader for further and full information concerning a work, which, for keenness of satire, purity of style, and extent of erudition, has seldom been equalled, and never surpassed.

In 1789 appeared tracts by Warburton and a Warburtonian, "not admitted into the collection of their respective works." Of those Dr. Parr was the editor, and to the two tracts of a Warburtonian at the end of that singular volume, he wrote the dedication and preface.

* Reply to Dr. Combe's "Statement of Facts," &c. &c. &c.

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Never, perhaps, was the literary world more surprised and delighted, than by the wit, eloquence and genius that shone forth in those very wonderful compositions: of which it is no exaggerated praise to say, that they unite the elegance of Addison, and the accuracy of Swift, to the gravity of Johnson, and the sublimity of Burke;—that they at once amuse, instruct, and admonish;—and that benevolence was never more conspicuous, nor candour more complete than is displayed by the writer, in all that concerns Jorten, Leland, and even Warburton.

Of this performance much has been whispered by the ignorant, the invidious, and the prejudiced. Let the doctor speak for himself*. As some of the "parties are dead, and as the controversies in which they were engaged have ceased to agitate the passions of men, this republication has not the smallest tendency to sow strife among scholars." Nor has any "strife" since been "sown," though ten years have since elapsed, and many scholars who revere the memory of Warburton, and love the virtues of Dr. Hurd, still survive.

On the occasion of the undertaking, let us again hear the learned editor. †"The Bishop of Worcester has not deigned to give a place to the following tracts, in his late magnificent edition of Warburton's Works. By re-publishing them,

* Tracts by Warburton, &c. P. 179.

† Preface to Warburton's two Tracts, at the beginning of the volume.

however, without the permission of the R. R. Editor, I mean not to arraign his taste or his prudence.—But among readers of discernment, the character of Bishop Warburton can suffer no diminution of it's lustre from this republication. They who are curious in collecting books, must certainly be anxious to possess *all* the writings of that eminent prelate. They who mark with philosophic precision the progress of the human understanding, will look up to Warburton with greater reverence and astonishment when "they compare the better productions of his pen with the worse." The same observations are applicable to the Tracts by the Bishop of Worcester. These tracts had first been published, and afterwards denied a place among his acknowledged works. He had an undoubted right to suppress them. Another had an equal right to restore them to the world. Literature could sustain no injury but from their concealment.

We will admit that subjects were revived, which that learned prelate might wish to have forgotten. In him, it had been, perhaps, indecoous, and certainly imprudent, to give them further circulation. But a writer not in his confidence, and even unacquainted with their author, had no suspicion to encounter by his interference, and no reproaches to dread from transgressions not his own.

If, however, one spark of animosity has been kindled between those two sagacious critics, and emi-

eminent divines, we know that it has long been extinguished; and we have reason to believe that they now "view each other with nobler feelings than those of forgiveness.*"

Early in the following year, Dr. Parr was introduced to Dr. Priestley.

"My first interview with him †," says Dr. Parr, "was at the house of a very sensible and most excellent man."—"Early in 1790, I revisited Dr. Priestley and his friends, in their endeavours to procure a repeal of the Test-Act. About a month or two after, Dr. Priestley and I met; and here begins a black catalogue of crimes, which have been long enveloped in darkness, but which I am now audacious enough to plant before legions of senseless and merciless calumniators in open day.

"I knew that Dr. John Leland, of Ireland, lived upon terms of intimacy with many English prelates—that Archbishop Secker preserved his acquaintance with Dr. Chandler—that Dr. Johnson admitted the visits of Dr. Fordyce, and did not decline the company of Dr. Mayo. When I myself too lived at Norwich, Mr. Bourne, a dissenting teacher, not less eminent for the boldness of his opinions, than for the depth of his researches, was very well received by the worthiest and most respectable clergymen of that city. I was, therefore, and now am at a loss to see why a clegyman of the church of England should shun the presence of a dissenting minister merely because they do not agree on doctrinal points, which have long divided the Christian world; and, indeed, I have always found, that when men of sense and virtue mingled in conversation, the harsh and confused suspicions which they may have entertained of each other give way to more just and more candid sentiments."

Indeed it seems strange to us, that two men so active, so ingenious, and so learned, who, in spite of their differences in religion, possessed much moral virtue, philosophic knowledge, and literary attainment in common, should

* Tracts by Warburton, &c.
† Sequel, &c. P. 20. Second Edition.

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have lived five years within seventeen miles of each other without having met. A very few visits had been exchanged between them before an event took place, which never can be mentioned without disgrace to the national character.

"Animus meminisse horret, luctuque refugit."

The riots in Birmingham, which happened in 1791, will be remembered by the latest posterity not more for the numerous and diffusive mischiefs they occasioned, than for the meanness of spirit, blindness of rage, and intemperance of zeal, with which the mob attacked the peaceful abode of Dr. Priestley, and destroyed his library and philosophical apparatus. Europe has, in consequence, received that gentleman's farewel, and suffered a diminution of its philosophical importance.

Not content with wreaking their vengeance on Dr. Priestley, by burning his house, and plundering it of all that was most valuable to him they resolved to extend their desolating ravages, and murderous designs, to every person in any degree connected with him. Hearing that Dr. Parr had been seen at the house of Dr. Priestley some months before, and wisely concluding that nothing less than a complete coincidence of opinion could have brought him thither, they threaten to bend their course towards Hatton, and burn his house and library also! Happily an end was put

put to these horrible proceedings ere the mob could accomplish their purpose, but not till the doctor had experienced the severest pangs for the fate of his family, and anticipated the irreparable loss of his books and manuscripts *.

It is well known that the pretence for these outrages, was a meeting held by the Dissenters on the 14th of July, 1791, in celebration of the French Revolution. In the Spring of the year 1792, it was pretty generally reported that a party still remained, stubborn enough to meditate another commemoration on the ensuing anniversary of that remarkable event. A step that might have brought destruction upon themselves, and the whole town. The report soon reached the doctor, who, on the 17th of May, began and finished, *in the same day*, his "Letter from Irenopolis, to the Inhabitants

"* Such and such only," says the doctor, speaking of the short intercourse that had subsisted between himself and Dr. Priestley, "has been my connection with him. And was it for this that, in a season of deep distress and dreadful danger, my principles were on a sudden gnawed at by vermin whisperers, and worried by brutal reproaches? That my house was marked out for conflagration? that my family were, for three days and three nights, agitated with consternation and dismay? that my books, which I have long been collecting with indefatigable industry—upon which I have expended more than half the produce of more than twenty years unwearied labour—and which I considered as the pride of my youth, the employment of my riper age, and, perhaps, the best solace of declining life—was it for this, I say, that my books were exposed to most unexpected, most unmerited destruction?"

SEQUEL, &c. Pp. 103, 104. Second Edit.

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of Elentheropolis; or, a Serious Address to the Dissenters of Birmingham; by a Member of the Established Church." That extraordinary pamphlet, containing forty octavo pages, rather closely printed, on no very large type, produced an advertisement from the dissenters, in which, after professing the purest loyalty and attachment to the sovereign, they disclaimed all knowledge of any design to meet again.

This year, to accommodate Dr. Bridges, the doctor exchanged the perpetual curacy of Hatton for the rectory of Wadenhoe in Northamptonshire, with no view whatever to profit, much less from any inclination to change the place of his residence.

In the same year it was the doctor's fate to be engaged in a dispute with the Rev. Charles Curtis, the Rector of St. Martin's, Birmingham. Delicacy forbids us to say any more of that unfortunate misunderstanding, than that it gave occasion for the doctor once more to contribute to the stock of our national literature, by touching, in his own masterly way, on some of the most momentous topics in politics and religion.

Here we find that we owe a debt to truth, and we shall pay it. The anonymous author of "The Pursuits of Literature," with his usual confusion of statement, and facility of misrepresentation, has abused the Doctor for, first "printing a paper" himself, and then publishing a sequel

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to it. Had that writer seen the title only of the pamphlet here alluded to, he would have found it to be "a sequel to the printed paper, lately circulated in Warwickshire, *by the Rev. Mr. Curtis, &c.* It would, indeed, have been ridiculous in any man to *print a paper* in condemnation of himself, and then to publish a reply to it in his own justification. But that bungling botcher of bad verse, and rancorous retailer of ribald prose, has had his reward. He has "out-heroded Herod." But the arm of criticism has been uplifted against him, and crushed him with weapons of stouter metal than his own—"I war not with the dead."

The dispute which gave birth to "the Sequel, &c." has long since happily terminated. The parties have not forgotten to what profession they belong. A proposal handsomely made by the Doctor, was readily accepted by Mr. Curtis, and it led to a reconciliation. Of this affair the former has written * an account, with his accustomed accuracy and strength of feeling.

The year 1794 is remarkable for an event in the Doctor's family, which it would be unpardonable not to relate, as it must at once interest every fond parent, every kind preceptor, and every benevolent Christian.

If not one of the most forward in point of genius, at least one of the most promising of his

* Reply to Dr. Combe.

pupils, in sweetness of temper and propriety of conduct, was the only son of John Smitheman, Esq. This amiable youth was seized very suddenly, about the middle of March, with an alarming illness and died in two or three days. The grief of his worthy tutor is thus described by one of the Doctor's friends:

"On Tuesday, 25th of March, 1794, I was sent for by the doctor, who, the messenger told me, was in the deepest distress. I instantly repaired to Hatton, where I found not only the master of the house, but the whole family, bathed in tears, and in a state of most dreadful agony. In short, any one would have thought that a darling child of their own had lain dead. The day was spent most sorrowfully. Early the next morning, after a messenger had been dispatched, to convey the melancholy tidings to the unexpecting parents, I retired from this scene of affliction, after promising to return the same evening. I came to Hatton again about sun-set. The doctor had gone, during my absence, in search of comfort, to his friend and neighbour Lord Dormers. Not long after my return he came home, and entered the library, where Mrs. Parr, her two daughters, and myself, were sitting at supper; he sat down, without speaking, by the fire, and sobbed like an infant.

"His attention, however, was soon called to the preparations necessary for the funeral, in the midst of which the wonted vigour of his mind returned, and he dictated to me one of the most pathetic and impressive funeral orations that, perhaps, has ever been written in any language. What follows will never be effaced from my memory.

"We were smoking our pipes together the evening before the interment, when it was told the doctor, that the coffin was about to be screwed down. He sat quietly for a few moments, and then hurried me along with him to the chamber where the body of the deceased lay. There, after a last view of the corpse, he ordered the whole house to assemble, and falling on his knees, while his grief seemed every moment as if it would choak his utterance, he burst forth into an extemporary prayer, so piously humble, so fervently devout, and so consummately eloquent, that it drew a torrent of tears from all present."

The funeral was conducted with great solemnity; and, in the chancel, over the grave, an elegant

elegant mural monument has been erected, with a suitable Latin inscription.

Having scrupulously discharged these sacred duties, the Doctor sought for consolation and relief in his books, and in devising ornaments for his parish church. By a subscription among his former and present pupils, and a few friends, he had already contrived to embellish it with two fine chandeliers; and this year a new east window, and one on each side of the chancel were beautifully painted by Mr. Eggington. The subject of the largest of these is the crucifixion; and the manner in which it is executed excites great expectation, from the future improvements of that artist, in every beholder. Still some literary exertions were necessary to rouse his mind, and, fortunately for him, he had been engaged before this event in a laborious piece of criticism, which being not yet finished, he was called upon to complete.

Early in 1793 the British Critic, a new Review, had been offered to the public, and had met with a favourable reception. From his acquaintance with the conductor of that work, he had been induced to lend it his assistance; and, accordingly, in the beginning of this year, he entered upon an examination of Dr. Combe's Variorum Edition of Horace, which had recently issued from the press. That work certainly derived no credit from the remarks of the reviewer which were carried on through five numbers

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and distinguished by acuteness of penetration, solidity of judgment, and depth of erudition. The Editor was highly incensed at the critic, and, contrary to whatever we recollect to have been done before in any similar case, called upon him *by name*, to retract his own assertions, and refute his own observations. Baffled in that attempt, Dr. Combe at length published a small pamphlet intituled "A Statement of Facts relative to the Behaviour of Dr. Parr, to the late Mr. H. Homer and Dr. Combe." In that statement Dr. Parr was vehemently accused of breach of promise, violation of friendship, and even of want of veracity. How well and how successfully he defended himself against those charges will not soon be forgotten.

Dr. Parr, in his reply to the Editor, has given the whole history of the connection with Mr. Homer, from its commencement to the death of the latter. Most interesting and satisfactory is that account, and we believe the doctor's affection for his friend to have been most sincere, and the grief he felt at his death most poignant. Whether the Variorum Horace was first projected by Dr. Combe, or not, and whether Dr. Parr engaged to take any considerable share in it, or not, it is certain that Mr. Homer was to have been the principal conductor of that arduous undertaking, and probable, that the editor might be indebted to him for the merit which belongs to the execution.

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To do justice to such a character as that of Dr. Samuel Parr—to mark the extent of his erudition, to describe the powers of his eloquence, to show the vast magnitude of his genius, but, above all, to praise his virtues as they deserve, is a task that we reluctantly resign to some future biographer. In what we have written it has been our aim—

> "Nought to extenuate,
> "Nor set down aught in malice."

But we must be permitted to affirm, that as a divine, he is sedulous and beneficent: That his politics are not the offspring, and have never been the tools, of party: That he is a warm friend, a tender parent, and a kind neighbour. As a preceptor, the treatment of his pupils has been paternal, and an affection truly filial has often been manifested by most of them towards him.

Dr. Parr has very lately declined taking any more pupils. His friends are numerous, and their conversation and correspondence, have been his principal solace and relief through many years of unremitting toil. It has been his custom, in various parts of the kingdom, to spend his holydays among them.

It has been, in such a degree, the doctor's pride to improve and embellish his church, that the decorations may by some be deemed too gorgeous. All the windows, except two, which belong

to the singing gallery, are now painted; and the pulpit-cloth and the other furniture, are sumptuous and magnificent.

His library, which he himself built, on his coming to reside at *Hatton*, is a large well proportioned room. But, no longer capable of holding all his books, which, we have heard, he has since been obliged to distribute among other apartments. So voracious, indeed, and insatiable is his helluosity, that we doubt whether, if his books continue to accumulate as they have hitherto done, the whole house may be ample enough to contain them. For scarcity of edition, taste in selection, and wide range of literature, a more valuable collection has, probably, never been made by any single scholar, who was not a man of high rank, or splendid fortune.

About the year 1771, the doctor married Miss Maisendale, by whom he has had several children. Two only are now living. The eldest was married, not long since, to the eldest son of Col. Wynne. The other is unmarried.

X. Y.

DR. CHARLES

DOCTOR CHARLES HUTTON.

THIS extraordinary person, F. R. S. and member of several learned academies in Europe and America, is the present Professor of Mathematics to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich; having adorned that chair for upwards of twenty-six years, and greatly contributed, by his industry and judgement, to raise the course of education at that seminary to the most distinguished pitch of credit and usefulness.

That great talents, and the highest respectability of character and manners in life, do often emerge, by the force and energy of individual powers, from low and obscure origin, are facts, which, perhaps, have at no time been better illustrated than in the instance of this gentleman, whose distinguished abilities and application have raised him to the most respectable eminence in life and literature.

Dr. Hutton is a native of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in Northumberland, where he was born about the year 1737, of parents, who, though among the lower ranks in life, were always at the top, and among the most respectable, of their station; a circumstance which Dr. H. himself has also at all times preserved through the various conditions and situations which he has filled in life.

At an early age he was sent to a school in his native place, where he soon made a rapid progress in the first rudiments of education, being always among the foremost in his classes. In consequence of these promising appearances, his parents were encouraged and persuaded, by their neighbours, to continue this, their youngest son, whom they considered as the hopes of the family, at country schools in the vicinity of Newcastle, till he arrived at near the age of manhood, while his elder brothers were sent to laborious employments.

Here he acquired all the little learning to be obtained at such village-schools, consisting of reading, writing, and accounts, with a little Latin, and the rudiments of practical geometry, mensuration, surveying, &c. In all the school-exercises, he was among the foremost ranks, and the chief favourite of his masters, not seldom to the envy and ill-will of his school-mates. If a question or calculation more difficult than ordinary occurred, he was sure to select it, being always emulous to be at the top of every thing in hand. Besides, having always manifested, from the earliest stage of infancy, an uncommon docility, notability, and simplicity, of manners, these endearing qualities rendered *Charles Hutton*, at all times, the wonder and little favourite of every one, more especially among the females of his acquaintance.

Mostly in this way was his early youth passed away, till the loss of his parents compelled him to think of some sort of employment for subsistence; and,

and, being without any regular occupation, he commenced country-schoolmaster about the 18th year of his age; a line of life in which he has continued ever since, in various places, with the most ample success, having risen by his talents to the top of his profession.

This commencement of his occupation was at the village of Jesmond, about two miles from Newcastle, where he remained a few years, instructing the children of that neighbourhood, and improving himself by close study, and eagerly reading all the mathematical and other books he could purchase with the savings out of his little income: by which means he found his mind and powers gradually opening, his knowledge considerably extended, and, with it, his ardent love for the mathematics, and thirst for knowledge in general.

In this pursuit, his exertions were greatly stimulated and his little stock of knowledge increased, by resolving the questions in that most useful almanac, the Ladies' Diary; a little work, which, though seemingly mean and insignificant, has been the occasion of rearing more mathematicians in this country than half the other books professedly written on the subject; a benefit for which his gratitude has amply repaid, by his annual labours for that little book, during an uninterrupted succession of more than forty years; by which endeavours that work has been raised to the highest pitch of respectability among the learned mathematicians in this country.

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During the few years of his residence at this place, too, another remarkable circumstance took place in the condition of our young school-master; by his becoming, for a time, a close and zealous follower of the Methodists, and at length he ventured even to write sermons, and to preach among them. From his very earliest infancy, Mr. H. had always been of a cast of mind and disposition at once serious, sincere, affectionate, devout. Even when a boy, of only ten or twelve years, by reading some old devotional tracts, (for, he eagerly devoured all sorts of books that fell in his way,) he had wrought himself up to such a pitch of enthusiasm, that, among other acts of devotion, he formed a little retired arbour in a wood, through which the path lay in his way to school, that he might step aside to pray in it, for a few minutes, as he passed to and from school.

And about this time he made a considerable sacrifice to the sincerity of this disposition, by destroying all the ballads and popular little books of tales and stories usually read at a tender age; a sacrifice the more extraordinary, as he had gathered together a great number of them, at the expense of all the little money that was given him from time to time; the practice of collecting a mass of what he considered as curious books having been a predominant passion with him through all the stages and changes of his life. It was never sufficient for him to read a book, and then part with it again; but he must also possess it

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as his own, and add it to his collection, to have it always at hand to refer to on any occasion.

This devotional temper of mind had never entirely quitted him; so that, on falling in company with some neighbouring people of the sect of Methodists, he was the more easily led to join them, as he did for a few years, till such time as he removed into the town of Newcastle, where he gradually declined his connection with them.

This removal was about the year 1760. By dint of a continual perseverance, in study and reading, at vacant hours and late evenings, Mr. H. had now acquired, as he thought, such a stock of scientific knowledge and experience in his profession, that he judged his acquirements too good for the obscure village and little country circuit in which he shone with unequalled credit among several others of his profession, and that they authorized him in making a tender of his services in that town, the rich metropolis of a large district, where he might hope to be better rewarded for his labours, by instructing the children of the more opulent inhabitants, and that in the higher branches of their education, or at least, so far as utterly to decline the humble and painful office of teaching them to read: a plan in which he perfectly succeeded, in opposition to every extraneous difficulty that could be made to his success, difficulties which were both numerous and powerful.

In the first place, his very name was almost unknown in the town, having made acquaintance only

with two or three booksellers and school-masters, the latter of whom were more ready to impede than to favour his endeavours. In the next place, by selecting only the higher branches of the education of youth, and resolutely rejecting the lower, he formed new and unusual obstacles to success, by diminishing the chance for pupils, and introducing a novelty in the profession of school-masters with which the people were but little acquainted. Another obstacle was, that he at once indispensably demanded for his price of teaching more than double the sum that had usually been paid in that town for the like branches of education; a demand which withheld from his school many a pupil, whom he might otherwise have had. Finally, and, perhaps, most of all, from a hasty and unhappy marriage, which he entered into at the very time of his removal; a connection which he had been precipitated into, partly from the domestic turn of his mind, and partly from the natural warmth and temperament of his constitution, which it seems began at an early age, and accompanied him always through life.

From these and other causes, it happened, that it was some time before Mr. H. got into much employment, struggling with adversity and the cravings of an increasing family; distresses which were also accompanied with the disappointment of his expectations of domestic comfort from his matrimonial connection: forming altogether such a load of distresses as would have driven a mind of

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less integrity and fortitude to seek refuge in a desperate flight from the whole at once.

By force, however, of a regular good conduct, with improving talents and qualifications, he at length succeeded in triumphing over most of these difficulties, and became the chief teacher in the place for those branches of education which he had selected for his employment: maintaining his family in a style of decency and credit, always above others of the same line of life, beside making considerable additions to his stock of mathematical and philosophical books, which, during the thirteen years of his residence in the place, arrived at a degree which occasioned them to be much spoken of as respectable, and the more so, when it was considered how difficult it must be to procure many of such curious books as he there collected together.

During this period, Mr. H. made a rapid and continual increase of knowledge in all the mathematical sciences, of which he gave many extraordinary and public proofs, both by publications of his own, and by the resolution of certain curious and difficult questions in various periodical publications, as magazines, diaries, scientific repositories, and such like, more especially the mathematical questions in the Ladies' Diary, in his own name, and in Martin's Magazine of Sciences, under the signature *Tonthu*, being the letters of his name transposed.

The first of Mr. H.'s own separate publications was the little book on Arithmetic, for the use of schools, first printed at Newcastle in the year 1764; a work which has met with so much approbation, as has since carried it through ten very numerous editions. In printing the first edition of this work, to supply the want of proper mathematical types in so distant a provincial town as Newcastle, Mr. H. was obliged, with his own hand, to cut with the pen-knife, on the reversed end of old types, many of the algebraical characters that were used in the vulgar fractions and other parts.

After this beginning, Mr. H. next occupied his evenings in composing a large work on Mensuration, which afterwards came out in numbers, of a quarto form, the last of them in the year 1770, printed also at Newcastle. This was a very extensive work, of near 700 quarto pages, on mensurations of all kinds, both theoretical and practical, on a plan and to an extent far exceeding any thing of the name or kind that had ever before been seen: indeed, so high had the author's character risen in the public esteem, that more than a thousand subscribers were found to encourage the publication. The public esteem and expectation were not forfeited or disappointed in this work; which exhibited such traits of genius, industry, and acquaintance with the best of the more ancient authors, as were very unexpected and surprising. A second edition of this work, with improvements,

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was published at London in the year 1788, in a large octavo form.

The active mind of Mr. H. soon produced another specimen of his genius and industry, in a republication of all the useful parts of the Ladies' Diaries, from the beginning of that favourite little almanac, in the year 1704, to that of the year 1773. This edition was published in parts, or numbers, quarterly, beginning in July, 1771, and ending in July, 1775; making a collection of five volumes, viz. two volumes of the poetical, and three volumes of the mathematical, parts of the Diaries. These extracts were accompanied with large and numerous notes, supplying all defects in the original solution of the questions, &c. by means of curious and elegant constructions, calculations, and demonstrations; the whole forming a body of curious dissertations and questions, with their answers, &c. Each number was also accompanied by a few sheets of a new mathematical correspondence, of original essays, questions, &c. making up one volume, or mathematical miscellany, in which the contributions of our author himself made a considerable portion, but under several different fictitious names.

About the years 1771 and 1772, Mr. H. was employed, by the magistrates of Newcastle, as the fittest person in that place to make an accurate survey of the town and county of the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; a tract of many miles in circuit, and a town, which, from the crookedness of the streets

streets and the uneavenness of the ground, is perhaps the most difficult of all the towns in the island to measure. Of this tract he made a most accurate survey and plan, which was soon after engraved and published, in a map consisting of two very large sheets of paper, containing also a neat abridged account of the history, trade, and population, of that curious place.

Although Mr. H. had both these works in hand at the same time, namely, the survey and plan of Newcastle, and the Diarian Miscellany, he encountered another, not inconsiderable, work, which was rather of a temporary nature, occasioned by the sudden fall of Newcastle old bridge, which was borne down the 17th of November, 1771, by a very high flood, which raised the waters in the river about nine feet higher than the usual spring-tides.

This accident having given rise to many absurd notions among the people concerning arches and bridges, Mr. H. thought that the demonstration of the relations between the more essential parts of a bridge would not be unprofitable to such architects and builders as might be inclined, and capable of attending, to the theory of arches. In consequence of such reflections, in the space of two or three months he composed, and got printed at Newcastle, a very learned and useful little book on the subject of arches, intitled "The Principles of Bridges; containing the mathematical Demonstrations of the Properties of the Arches, the Thickness of the Piers, the Force of the Water against them, &c.

&c. with practical Observations and Directions drawn from the Whole," in octavo, 1772. Although this work was produced with such rapidity, that his most intimate friends could hardly perceive it was begun, when it was already finished, in the midst of other public labours, it has not failed to give the most general satisfaction to architects and engineers, and a new edition of it has been long a desideratum with the public.

It is remarkable, that the printing of the foregoing works at Newcastle, viz. the Mensuration, the Bridges, and the Diarian Miscellany, happily proved the occasion of rearing and bringing to public notice the most excellent wood engraver or cutter that the world has perhaps beheld, in the person of the ingenious Mr. Bewick, of Newcastle, so much admired for his elegant execution in wood of the collections of beasts and birds, since published.

It being desired to have the figures to those three books executed in wood, and there being no artist of that kind in the place, or any person who had ever executed a cut of that sort; it was found, however, to possess a very ingenious young man, Mr. Ralph Beilby, who engraved seals and other little things in metal, &c. This rising artist, from his own ingenuity, assisted by some hints and communications of Mr. H. soon produced such mathematical cuts as had seldom been seen in such books, and which have hardly been much excelled.

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The beauty of the cuts in these works was such, that, afterwards, when Mr. H. came to reside at Woolwich, near London, and in consequence had become known to Dr. Horsley, now bishop of Rochester, this learned gentleman being about to begin the printing of his complete edition of all the works of Newton, inquired of Mr. H. what artist had executed those cuts; and, in consequence of his recommendation, Mr. BEILBY executed the cuts for that work.

So great a quantity of business of this kind, both for the works of Newton and in Mr. H.'s three books before-mentioned, gave occasion to Mr. Beilby to unite with himself, in the execution of them, his pupil and assistant Mr. BEWICK, who has, in consequence of that circumstance, since that time risen to such perfection in that art, as to excite the wonder of all persons who view his specimens of execution.

After thirteen years residence at Newcastle, in a continued progressive increase in knowledge and respectability, Mr. H. removed to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich in the spring of the year 1773, where he hath ever since occupied the head office in the mathematical department, with increasing credit to himself and benefit to the public. The circumstances of this removal do him the greatest honour, having, without any interest, borne away the prize from a number of very able competitors, whose applications were backed with very powerful interest.

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The health of Mr. John Lodge Cowley (the then Professor of Mathematics there, who had succeeded the celebrated Mr. Thomas Simpson, in the year 1760) having so much declined, that he could no longer attend the duties of his office, the master-general and principal officers of the Board of Ordnance came to the resolution of permitting him to retire. When this intention became known, the master-general, Lord Townshend, was presently assailed on all sides by applications and great interest, to succeed him: but his lordship, being well aware how important offices may pass into the hands of improper persons, when taken on the recommendation only of great and powerful interest, highly to the honour of his judgement and honesty, declared, that he would not yield to any solicitations of interest, but that the place should be filled by the candidate who should best acquit himself, on a general examination of all the competitors, to be held at a time appointed, by four of the most learned and skilful persons that could be found, viz. the Rev. Dr. Horsley, (the present bishop of Rochester,) the Rev. Dr. Maskelyne, (astronomer royal,) Colonel Watson, (chief engineer in the India-Company's service,) and Mr. Landen, a most able mathematician.

By mere chance this resolution became known to Mr. H. at Newcastle; who, thereupon, without a particle of interest with the great, and without being at all known to any one,—unless, perhaps, it might be by name, to some of the examiners, being

being conscious of his own powers, on which he solely relied, presently repaired to the capital, from a distance of near three hundred miles, to present himself a candidate for examination. At the time appointed, all the competitors, six or eight in number, attended the Board of Examiners, at the beginning of a week, by whom they were all separately examined, in a room apart, to prevent any one from taking advantage of the examination of the others. Indeed nothing could be fairer, nor apparently more impartial on the part of the examiners, nor any examination better conducted to answer completely the good and wise intentions of his lordship, the master-general. Every candidate was closely questioned touching his acquaintance with the several branches of the mathematical sciences; concerning their principles and properties; the knowledge and choice of books and authors, both ancient and modern; the various and best modes of teaching those sciences; with every other requisite that seemed proper in the qualification for such an office. This examination occupied the whole day till late in the evening; at the conclusion of which, the examiners delivered to each candidate a large collection of very difficult problems, in the more abstruse parts of the mathematical and philosophical sciences; requesting their attendance again at the end of the week, to produce such solutions to those problems as they might be able to make out.

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They met again accordingly; and, though all his competitors were in a manner at home among their friends, and in the midst of their books, to assist them in making out solutions to the problems; advantages of which Mr. H. was debarred by his peculiar situation; yet his knowledge and talents triumphed over all difficulties, and even over the private partiality which more than one of the examiners entertained for some of the candidates, as their acquaintances, and for whom they had made interest, by recommendation, before the appointing of an examination. For, at the conclusion, the Board of Examiners drew up, and united in a report of their proceedings to the master-general and board-officers, stating, that, though most of the candidates were sufficiently well qualified for discharging the duties of the office which was the object of their competition; yet there was one among them, a Mr. Charles Hutton, whom they found it their duty, in a more particular manner, to recommend to his lordship's notice for that purpose; on account of the very able manner in which he had answered all the questions of the examiners, and on account of his very extensive reading and knowledge.

In consequence, a very few days after, Mr. H. received at his lodgings a notice of his appointment to the office from the master-general, who had never seen Mr. H. nor so much as ever heard of his name before the present occasion. And how wise and judicious was his lordship's choice,

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in so novel a mode of appointment, has been fully manifested by the success of the experiment; by the very extraordinary credit of that branch of education at the academy; by the great number of excellent officers Mr. H. has qualified; by the very punctual and regular attendance he always gives to the duties of his office; by the importance of the extra-services he has rendered, in making numerous experiments for the improvement of gunnery, and by the books he has composed and printed for the use of the academy; and, finally, by the entire approbation of his Majesty and the governors of the academy, so often expressed on many occasions; and whose confidence in his judgement and integrity has been farther implied, by desiring him successively to nominate and recommend the other two mathematical masters employed in the academy, a circumstance to which was owing the appointment of those two able masters there, Mr. BONNYCASTLE and Mr. EVANS.

Mr. H.'s settlement at the Royal Military Academy proved an important æra, not only to himself and the academy, but also to the sciences in this country. His new situation, near the metropolis, gave him better opportunities of consulting and collecting the most curious books on his peculiar branch of study, of which it seems he has made one of the best collections that have been known in this country. That situation, too, and the credit of the extraordinary mode of his appointment at Woolwich,

Woolwich, gave him happy opportunities of becoming acquainted with many of the first scientific characters in this country, as well as in other parts of Europe; by whose conversations and correspondence he was enabled to profit by fresh acquisitions of knowledge; and with some of the ablest and most virtuous of whom he has ever since had the honour to continue on the best terms of friendly communication.

In consequence of the advantage of his new situation, too, soon after his settling at Woolwich, Mr. H. beside his daily labour in the academy, set about, with great alacrity, a new and severe course of study of all the best books of science, as he procured them; with the view of better qualifying him for the execution of certain works, which, in idea, he had projected.

The first publication undertaken by him, after that period, was the compilation of that ingenious and favourite little work, the Ladies' Diary, to which he had for many years before been so creditable a contributor. At the moment of his arrival in London, on the business of the academy at Woolwich, he was informed of the death of the last compiler; and, a few days afterward, the future care of it was confided to his judgement and industry, by the Stationers' Company, with increased emoluments: a trust which he has ever since that time carefully discharged, by which the work has been raised to the highest degree of credit, and more than doubled the number of its an-

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nual contributors. In consequence of the satisfaction thus given to the Company, they have, at different times, entrusted him with the care and composition of other works, beside accepting his recommendation of other persons in the compilation of other of their publications.

Also, for several years, immediately after his settling at Woolwich, Mr. H. employed part of his time in writing accounts of mathematical and philosophical books, for the periodical reviews, monthly published in London. And, when his other avocations would no longer admit of his continuing such critiques, his recommendation of other persons to succeed him in that department was thankfully acknowledged by the proprietors.

The same year that Mr. H. removed to Woolwich, he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, being introduced to that honour, by some respectable members, before their kind and honourable intentions were known to himself: and how well their expectations of his usefulness to the Society have been realized has been abundantly manifested by his numerous and valuable communications of papers printed in the Philosophical Transactions.

The first of these was, "A New and General Method of finding Simple and Quickly-converging Series, by which the Proportion of the Diameter of a Circle to its Circumference may easily be computed to a great Number of Figures:" printed in the Transactions for 1776. And the second was, "A Demonstration of Two remarkable Theorems mentioned

mentioned in a former Article of the Transactions;" also published in the same year 1776.

The next was a large and very important communication, in the year 1778, entitled, "The Force of fired Gunpowder, and the Initial Velocities of Cannon-Balls, determined by Experiments; from which is also deduced the Relation of the Initial Velocity to the Weight of the Shot and the Quantity of the Charge of Powder." This paper contains the account and calculation of a great number of curious experiments, with cannon-balls, made at Woolwich, in the year 1775, by himself and other ingenious gentlemen; and so assured was the Society of the value of this communication, that Mr. H. was honoured with the prize-medal of that year; the delivery of which to him, at the conclusion of an excellent discourse on that occasion, was the last act of Sir John Pringle's administration as president of the Society: a situation from which it was said he had been induced to withdraw in disgust, on account of ill treatment in his office. At the same time, also, Dr. HORSLEY (the present bishop of Rochester) resigning his office of secretary to the Society, Mr. H. became a candidate to succeed him; but which, on account of the particular situation of his competitor, Mr. Maty, and his family, was given to the latter. On this occasion, however, the Society elected Mr. H. one of the council, and also conferred on him the office of Latin secretary, for conducting the foreign correspondence, vacated by the election of Mr. Maty to

the reading secretaryship. And how well Mr. H. discharged the duties of that office may well be judged by the many excellent translations of foreign communications from the Latin, French, and Italian, languages, printed in the Transactions, in the several following years, till 1784.

In the Transactions of the same year appeared "An Account of the Calculations made from the Survey and Measures taken at Schehallien, in order to ascertain the mean Density of the Earth." The determination of the mean density of the earth was an important problem instituted by the Society; and the survey and measurements, for that purpose, were taken at and about the hill Schehallien, in Perthshire, in the years 1774, 1775, 1776, by the direction, and partly under the inspection, of Dr. MASKELYNE, the Astronomer Royal: after which, the Society confided to Mr. H. the important office of making the calculations, and drawing the proper deductions from them. This was a very laborious work, requiring many thousand calculations, which were completed in the space of one year. It was also of great importance in itself, as affording one of the best proofs of the general attraction of matter; and, besides great accuracy in the calculation, it was necessary the operator should possess no ordinary portion of genius and address to manage so very delicate a business, being in a manner of a quite novel nature. And perhaps the Society could hardly have discovered another person possessing the requisite qualifications in so eminent

eminent a degree. Indeed the conclusion of this work fully justified the Society's choice, the operation doing equal honour to the Society and to the computor. In the result, Mr. H. found that the mean density of the earth was in proportion to that of the hill Schehallien, as 9 is to 5; so that, whenever the actual density of the hill shall be ascertained, (which it seems consists of a solid mass of the hardest stone,) from thence the real density of the earth, in respect of stone, or of water, will also easily follow.

The year following was given another paper, by Dr. Hutton, intended as a supplement to the foregoing one, containing "Calculations to determine at what Point in the Side of a Hill its Attraction will be the greatest;" a desideratum very useful in such a problem, as the deviation of the plumb-line, by the attraction of the hill, is but small in any case.

The next communication, which was in the year 1780, was a very long tract on cubic equations and infinite series; in which the subject of those equations seems to be exhausted.

The next, in the year 1783, was a "Project for a new Division of the Quadrant." This is a project for adopting or calculating new tables of sines, tangents, and secants, to equal parts of the radius, instead of to those of the quadrant; in which way, the numbers in the column of arcs will denote the real lengths of the arcs, instead of the arbitrary division of 60ths, or degrees and minutes.

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This was the last of Dr. H.'s communications to the Society; as it seems a stop was put to his usefulness in that way, by what was deemed a cruel act of oppression in the new president, which it seemed grew out of the following circumstances.

The adjudication of the prize-medal to Dr. H.'s paper, before-mentioned, on the force of fired gunpowder, had necessarily produced a considerable intercourse between him and the president, Sir John Pringle, while this learned veteran was drawing up the curious paper containing the speech he was to pronounce on delivering the medal to Dr. H. an intercourse which produced a mutual friendship and confidence, which ended only with the death of Sir John. This circumstance, with that of his not paying sufficient court and attendance on the new president, (a practice at all times hostile to Dr. H.'s natural disposition,) it was alleged, by his friends, produced a jealousy and dislike against him, and at length a determination of removing Dr. H. from his office of foreign secretary. For this purpose, it seems, the president procured a resolution of council, "that it was expedient for the foreign secretary to reside constantly in London." Dr. H. conceiving himself to have been affronted by this resolution of the council, went to the Society, and resigned his place, in a speech, which, though couched in modest words, and apparently conveying no more than an ordinary resignation, strongly spoke the language of injured merit.

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In consequence of these and other alleged circumstances of malversation in his office, the conduct of the president was loudly arraigned by Dr. HORSLEY, and other friends of Dr. HUTTON, in some violent debates; which at length concluded with the resignation of the secretaryship by Mr. Maty, and the secession of a number of the learned members. These proceedings took place in 1784; and accounts of them were given in several pamphlets published at the same time.

Soon after this, viz. in 1786, Dr. H. published a volume of mathematical and philosophical tracts, in 4to, containing a number of curious papers, which would probably have appeared in the volumes of the Philosophical Transactions had not the foregoing proceedings taken place in the Society. Among these tracts, which are all of them curious and original, is a long one, of near 200 pages, of great importance to the public utility of the nation. It consists of "New Experiments in Artillery; for determining the Force of fired Gunpowder; the Initial Velocity of Cannon-Balls; the Ranges of Pieces of Cannon at different Elevations; the Resistance of the Air to Projectiles; the Effect of different Lengths of Cannon; and of different Quantities of Powder, &c. &c." These valuable experiments were the result of the employment of the years 1783, 1784, 1785; and the account of them is accompanied with calculations, and followed by deductions of the highest concernment.

Beside these works, the active and patient mind of Dr. H. has produced several other useful and ingenious publications. As, first, in 1781, in a folio volume, "Tables of the Products and Powers of Numbers published by Order of the Commissioners of Longitude." A very curious work, of immense labour and calculation, which, it has been said, was chiefly owing to the industry of his present or second wife, a lady of extraordinary learning, talents, and goodness, who it seems has also assisted him on some other occasions of laborious calculations.

Secondly, in 1785, "Mathematical Tables; containing the common, hyperbolic, and logistic, Logarithms; also Sines, Tangents, Secants, and Versed Sines, both natural and logarithmic; with several other Tables useful in mathematical Calculations: to which is prefixed, a large and original History of the Discoveries and Writings relating to those Subjects." A history, which it must have cost many years painful toil in reading different books, and collecting the materials for it, and to describe in detail their contents, the inventions, and improvements, contained in such a number of scarce and curious books, in all languages. A second edition was printed in 1794.

In 1786, "The compendious Measurer; being a brief, yet comprehensive, Treatise on Mensuration and practical Geometry; with an Introduction to decimal and duodecimal Arithmetic; adapted to Practice and the Use of Schools." This is chiefly an

an abridgement of his large work on Mensuration, and has since gone through several other editions.

In 1787, in one volume 8vo, "Elements of conic Sections, with select Exercises in various Branches of Mathematics and Philosophy, for the Use of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich." This volume, which consists chiefly of practical exercises for the use of the Cadets at the Academy, was ordered to be printed by the Duke of Richmond, then master-general of the ordnance; on which occasion, Dr. H. had the honour to be presented to the King, and to kiss his Majesty's hand.

In 1796 came out, in two large volumes in 4to, Dr. H.'s "Mathematical and Philosophical Dictionary;" a work which is replete with abundance of curious and original matter, and it must have employed most part of the author's life in reading books, and extracting from them the materials for this work. We have heard it said, and can believe it, that one article, viz. the ALGEBRA alone, occupied no less than two years of the author's time in writing it, and reading all the treatises on the same subject to collect the materials.

In 1798, appeared the last of Dr. Hutton's publications, being "A new Course of Mathematics, in two volumes, composed, and more especially designed, for the Use of the Gentlemen Cadets in the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich." A work in which he has condensed into two octavo volumes, of

of a middling size, a vast body and variety of useful matter; and, though mostly on the elementary sciences, treated in a novel manner, with great neatness, precision, and even elegance.

In 1779, our author had the honour to be presented with a diploma, constituting him Doctor of Laws, by the University of Edinburgh; and he has since been elected honorary member of several learned academies, both in Europe and America.

It is no small credit to the economy and good management of his domestic concerns, as well as his industry, that, although he has always had a family to provide for, and his family has always appeared in a style of life and respectability above others of the same rank, by his own labours alone, Dr. H. has been enabled to realize a comfortable little independence, in a neat little freehold farm which he has bought; upon which he has built several neat houses, and which he cultivates in such a style, for his amusement, that he may be said to have reared a village and planted a garden in the wilderness. A circumstance by which the versatility and extent of his genius has also farther appeared; as well as by another, which is seeming still farther removed from the nature of his own profession; namely, a manufacture of bricks and tiles, which he carried on to some extent for several years, by the materials dug out of the ground on his own estate, till he was disgusted with the business by the villany of the workmen he was obliged to employ

ploy in the works. In this way, in the short space of four or five years, he made more improvements, and produced more curious specimens of the trade, than many manufacturers that have been engaged their whole life in the business.

Notwithstanding such extraordinary exertions and labour of body and mind, for so long a series of years, we are glad to observe, that Dr. H. still enjoys a very uncommon share of health and activity; from which we may reasonably expect to see still more of his very useful public labours. Though it is said he has never ceased to lament the loss of his very amiable youngest daughter, at the age of sixteen, in the year 1794, of whose very brilliant talents and accomplishments some account was given in the Gentleman's Magazine in the month of October that year; since which, it seems, he has unhappily never quite recovered his wonted spirits and liveliness.

A. D.

LORD HAWKESBURY.

THE Right Honourable Robert Banks Jenkinson, son of the Earl of Liverpool and of Miss Watts, (daughter of Governor Watts of Bengal,) who died a few months after his birth, was born the 7th of June, 1770.

He was placed, at a very early age, at the academy of Parson's Green, near Fulham, where he remained

remained until he entered his thirteenth year. The noble Earl, his father, who had himself experienced the benefits resulting from the system of education adopted at the Charter-House, then removed him to that excellent institution, in which he continued for two years. His improvement in classical learning, during that period, was considerable; and his progress in literature was frequently exemplified, not only by correct and elegant translations from the Greek and Latin authors, but by several original compositions, which were allowed to possess taste and judgement, and are still preserved by one of his school-fellows.

A very short interval took place between his leaving the Charter-House, and his entering the college of Christ-Church, Oxford; and that interval was employed in a manner the most likely to prove advantageous to his prospects and interests in life. His father, perfectly satisfied with the result of his scholastic pursuits, thought it necessary to direct his application to objects of a more important nature, and traced out for him a line of study, adapted to qualify him for those high situations in the state, which he now fills, and to which he was already destined by parental fondness. He was furnished with a catalogue of the most approved writers on the different branches of public economy, and the perusal of them was earnestly recommended to him in the course of his collegiate exercises. Thus happily directed, and implicitly following the instructions of one, who was

was deeply versed in the accomplishments necessary to form, if not an eminent, at least an useful, statesman, he left the University with a greater knowledge of commerce, manufactures, and finance, than some of the learned professors, whose lectures on ethics, natural philosophy, and mathematics, he had attended.

His Lordship soon after visited France, and was at Paris during the demolition of the Bastille, and several other important transactions in the commencement of the revolution. While he resided in that capital, he was indefatigable in acquiring a correct knowledge of the characters and views of the leading men in the interest of the court, and of those, who, by their eminence of talents, or political intrigues, had obtained popularity. His communications on a subject, so materially interesting to this country, proved highly satisfactory to the British ministry, and furnished the *premier* with a very favourable instance of his Lordship's industry and discrimination.

On his return to England, he was elected, in 1790, member for the borough of Rye, in Sussex; but, not having attained his one-and-twentieth year, he passed the intermediate time in a tour on the Continent, and took his seat in the House of Commons in the year 1791.

Early in the following year of the same session, the Russian Armament, as it was called, supplied Opposition with an opportunity of censuring administration; and the conduct of his Majesty's ministers,

ters, with respect to the war between the Empress of Russia and the Ottoman Porte, became the subject of parliamentary debate. Mr. WHITBREAD supported, on that occasion, by the whole strength of Opposition, brought forward the following motions:

"1st. That no arrangement, respecting Ockzakow and its district, appears to have been capable of affecting the political or commercial interests of this country, so as to justify any hostile interference on the part of Great Britain between Russia and the Porte.

"2d. That the interference of Great Britain, for the purpose of preventing the cession of the said fortress and its district to the Empress of Russia, has been wholly unsuccessful.

"3d. That his Majesty's ministers, in endeavouring, by means of an armed force, to compel the Empress of Russia to abandon her claim to Ockzakow and its district, and in continuing an armament, after the object for which it was proposed had been relinquished, have been guilty of gross misconduct, tending to incur unnecessary expenses, and to diminish the influence of the British nation in Europe."

Lord Hawkesbury, then Mr. Jenkinson, rose early in the debate, and, in his maiden speech, combated the resolutions with a force of argument and a perspicuity of language that evinced a profound knowledge of the question under consideration, and afforded favourable grounds to believe, that he would at some future period become a distinguished parliamentary speaker. He peculiarly called the attention of the House to the dangers which threatened Prussia from the progress of the Imperial arms, and displayed a correct idea of the

the balance of power in conformity to the state of Europe, as it was then generally admitted, but which has since been so materially altered by those extraordinary vicissitudes, that baffle the projects of human wisdom and expose the vanity of assuming fixed principles in political calculation.

He was appointed one of the commissioners for India affairs on the 22d of June, 1793; and the activity with which he performed the duties of that important office, fully justified the choice of government. In May, 1794, he received his Majesty's commission to command the cavalry fencible corps of the Cinque Ports, with the rank of colonel in the army; and, in 1796, was re-elected for Rye. When Sir George Yonge was, in the beginning of the present year, promoted from the mastership of the Mint to the government of the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies, Lord Hawkesbury was, without any solicitation in his favour, nominated to that employment, sworn of his Majesty's most honourable Privy-Council, and appointed one of the Lords of the Committee for Trade and foreign Plantations. His Lordship is married to one of the daughters of the Earl of Bristol, bishop of Derry, in Ireland.

His claims to notice, as a public character, are of a substantial nature. His mind is stored with the most useful acquisitions; and, though capable of engaging with success in the pursuit of abstract knowledge, or in metaphysical disquisition, he has wisely applied his faculties to the cultivation of

that kind of information, the theory of which, being derived from experience, generally leads to unequivocal and permanent advantages.

In the principles of legislation, the *jus gentium*, and the *arcana* of the *corps diplomatique*, his proficiency is considerable; but he chiefly excels in a knowledge of the commerce and manufactures of his country, both in their domestic state and their foreign operation.

As a parliamentary speaker, he maintains a respectable rank. His speeches are not indeed distinguished for

> "Thoughts that breathe, and words that burn;"

but his matter and manner are never trifling. His elocution is clear and correct, and his arguments are frequently enforced in an animated and impressive style. He certainly has not justified, by subsequent exertions, the opinion of his oratorical powers, which his first speech impressed upon the public mind; but an unguarded expression often depresses the confidence of the person who has used it, and discourages a bold display of talents, that might otherwise have equalled the most sanguine expectations.

"*The march to Paris,*" uttered in the intoxicating moment of success, dwindled into ridicule, when its impracticability was established by defeat and disappointment. It was repeated with all the force of ironical invective by the Opposition-bench, and reiterated by the anti-ministerial writers. It soon found its way, with many ludicrous comments,

comments, into coffee-houses and places of amusement, and will probably be preserved in the tablet of public memory, while his Lordship shall retain an official situation under government.

In private life, the conduct of the noble Lord is of the most amiable kind. He is susceptible of every generous feeling; and, to his friendship, Mr. Canning is peculiarly indebted for his rise in the political world. Lord Hawkesbury, uninfluenced by any motives of jealousy from the danger of future competition, to which the best characters are sometimes subject, viewed that gentleman's talents with admiration; and, though Mr. Canning was then on terms of intimate friendship with a leading member of Opposition, at once eminent as an author, an orator, and a wit, introduced him to the patronage of the Earl of Liverpool, who has since warmly interested himself in his favour.

DOCTOR ISAAC MILNER.

THE life of this gentleman exhibits a singular combination of ability, worth, industry, and good fortune. He was born in the West Riding of Yorkshire, near Leeds, of parents who could boast neither of rank nor property. While he was a boy, his father, who was a weaver, died; and the family, left behind, were Isaac, an elder brother

Joseph, and their mother, old and infirm. As the support of the father was wanting, it was necessary that double industry should be exerted, by the remaining branches of the family, to enable them even to live. The two young Milners were constantly at their spinning-wheels by day-break, in the summer; and, in winter, they rose by candle-light to pursue their labour. By this course of persevering diligence, they were enabled, for a long time, to maintain, with credit, themselves and their aged parent.

It was observed of these young men, by the neighbours, that they did not associate much with their acquaintances in the village, when a holiday or any other occasion invited them out to their accustomed sports. Instead of this, they employed their vacant time in the study of a few books, which chance had thrown in their way. This singularity brought them into some notice; and they became frequently the subjects of conversation among their neighbours.

With industry, and this love of study, they also united the strictest sobriety; so that it was generally predicted of them, by the neighbours, that they would one day make good figures in life.

Their fame at last began to spread through Leeds, a place which eminently abounds with opulent, generous, and discerning men. A subscription was readily entered into, by them, to educate, and send to college, one of these young men; and Joseph, as the elder brother, and one who, as yet, they

they thought, had displayed the most talent, was fixed upon as the object of their patronage. Isaac after this was for some time thrown into the back ground; though destined at last to come forward, and exceed even the fortunes of his brother.

Joseph was sent to the grammar-school at Leeds; and the lessons he learnt there by day, on his return home at night, he taught Isaac; who discovered not only a liking for this novel study of the classics, but great quickness of parts, memory, and judgement, also. Thus passed three years; in the course of which time, it may be supposed that Isaac had gained a tolerable degree of acquaintance with the Greek and Latin languages.

But the time soon arrived, when Joseph was to be sent to college. This deprived the younger brother of the only assistant who was able and willing to give him instruction. The foundation of knowledge was however laid, and it was only necessary now to raise the superstructure. This, by a similar course of industry, with which he set out, was effectually done; so that, at the age of nineteen, he might be fairly called a good classic.

Having arrived at that age when it is usual for boys to be put to some trade, he was bound apprentice to a weaver. Previously educated as Isaac had been, the loom may not be supposed to have agreed with his disposition better than the distaff with that of Hercules; he had, however, like the old Theban, the soft influence of attendant charms

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to reconcile him to his temporary captivity; for, the Muses, both in the hour of labour and recreation, were his constant companions.

While Isaac was thus employed in the occupation of a weaver, his brother had finished his studies at Cambridge with considerable *éclat*, having ranked as *senior optime*, and gained the second classical medal. Soon after, he was ordained; and, removing to Hull, held the curacy of Trinity-Church, and became also master of the free grammar-school of that place.

Isaac, who had long compared, with no high degree of satisfaction to himself, the inglorious toils of a mechanic life, with the splendid honours and emoluments of a literary one, thought this a good opportunity to attempt an emancipation from a trade, no way congenial to his disposition, and wrote, therefore, to his brother an account of the progress he had made in literature; at the same time requesting to become an assistant to him in the school, for teaching the lower classes. However Joseph might wish to comply with his brother's request, he was resolved to proceed on sure grounds; and wrote to a clergyman of Leeds to call and examine his brother; and, if he found his attainments considerable, or his genius at all promising, to send him down to Hull. In conformity to this request, the clergyman waited upon young Isaac, who was then about nineteen years of age. He was found at his loom, with a Tacitus lying by his side. After undergoing an examination

tion for some time, in the course of which he displayed great accuracy of idea, much general knowledge, and an astonishing command of language; he was thought perfectly eligible to be sent to Hull. Accordingly, in a few days after, he bade adieu to the humble occupation of weaving for ever.

As mention has necessarily been made of Joseph Milner, with whom Isaac is now to reside, it may not be improper to give a little farther introduction to his character.

Joseph Milner having settled at Hull, as master of the free grammar-school, and curate of Trinity-Church, became, about the time of his brother's removal from Leeds, convinced, in a manner to which he had hitherto been a stranger, of many peculiar doctrines of Christianity; such as, the *New Birth, Justification by Faith, Original Sin*, and *Redemption by Jesus Christ.* Being a man, zealous by nature in every cause he undertook, he became, in support of these points, a fearless and animated preacher. With a conduct irreproachable, and an awe of sanctity which seemed to reside about his person; it is not to be wondered at, that he made great impression on his hearers. Those of them, who, by nature were gay, dwelt on his representations of eternal felicity with peculiar partiality, and already counted heaven as their own: the timid were alarmed at his denunciations, and saw nothing but perdition awaiting them: while, as they are called, the men of the world, who

cannot altogether renounce the dictates of nature and reason, ridiculed him as little better than a madman. This *timor deorum*, as Horace would have called it, thus seizing the mind of Joseph Milner, continued ever after to be the leading feature of his character. A Bible was always his pocket-companion, which employed his researches, whenever company or business left a vacant opportunity. This constant occupation of the mind on religious ideas, he used to recommend to his scholars, as the best means of counteracting the designs of their grand enemy. Nothing, to be sure, could be more effectual for that purpose; but the suggestions of nature, which are frequently laudable, and, at the same time, full as subtle as those of Satan, may be unhappily silenced by the same contrivance: it is necessary, therefore, to have the means of distinguishing the one from the other. Whether such a system is to be ranked among the imbecilities of the human mind, and denominated *superstition*, or esteemed a new era of awakened sensibility to objects of greater importance than those of sense, and to be dignified with the title of *religion*, may be, with some, difficult to determine. Certain it is, that Joseph Milner, for thirty years before his death, lived the life of a strict believer in Christianity; and, more than can be said of the generality of such persons, his life was answerable to his professions; so that, whether his conquests over the frailties and propensities of human nature be real or imaginary, he has the most indisputable

indisputable right to the praise of an honest man.

With such an example before him, Isaac, could not but imbibe some sentiments of veneration for the Christian religion; and his mind was no doubt tinctured with that particular view of its tenets, which distinguished the belief of his brother. His prospects were now turned toward the church; and, after having assisted his brother for some time, in the capacity of usher, he was removed to Queen's College, Cambridge; where he entered as a sizer.

Few persons ever came better prepared to the university, or with talents more likely to make a conspicuous figure. Beside his natural assiduity and good abilities, he had the advantage of being educated by a person, that had gone through the university before him, and that person also a brother; who must have been, therefore, a more sedulous instructor than any other person.

While an usher at Hull, Isaac Milner had made himself a complete classic. His knowledge of mathematics must have been very considerable, too, since, on the occurrence of any difficulty in algebra, it was usual with his brother Joseph to send to him for an explanation; which, though the elder brother might have been able to make out himself, yet the readiness of Isaac always saved him that trouble. In algebra, therefore, and Euclid, he may be considered to have possessed, before even he went to the university, a senior *op-*

time's knowledge. Another great cause of his success was the circumstance of his spending the long vacation at his brother's school in his original employment of usher. By these means, he had not only retained what he had learnt, but was enabled to add considerably, every year, to his Cambridge acquirements. All the time of his being an under-graduate was spent in indefatigable study. Confident in his abilities, he had fixed his eye upon the first honours of the place, and had perseverance and ability sufficient to ensure their attainment. In the year 1774, therefore, he became senior wrangler, with the honourable distinction of *incomparabilis*, and gained also the first mathematical prize.

This struggle for literary distinction, though crowned with success, was not attended with that only charm, which can render even success pleasant. Intense study had secretly laid the foundation of a nervous disorder, which may possibly continue, as it hitherto has done, to embitter his future life. The equal distribution of happiness seems not less true than philosophical; and, perhaps, the painless days and embroken slumbers of the peasant form no mean counterpoise to the most splendid rewards of literature.

This valetudinarian state of Mr. Milner may account for some peculiarities of his conduct; such as residing much at home, and being at church

Parcus cultor deorum et infrequens.

His

His retirement, however, is said to be employed in labours, which will one day add to his literary fame, and considerably benefit the world.

At Cambridge, Mr. Milner became acquainted with that ornament of the British senate and of humanity, WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Esq. This gentleman, though he had, from his earliest years, the advantage of a strict education, yet his sentiments on religious subjects are said to have received great confirmation from the clear reasonings and able deductions of Mr. Milner. Soon after the commencement of this acquaintance, the parties, together with Mr. Pitt, went on a continental tour; but had not proceeded far, before some political changes in this country called them back. A friendship, however, was cemented in this short time between them, which is not likely soon to be dissolved.

Soon after Mr. Milner returned from the continent, which was in 1788, he was chosen President of the College, to which, as a student, he had done so much credit. Before his election, this venerable asylum of Erasmus had greatly decreased in reputation, but began then to assume something of its ancient consequence, by the repletion of its numbers. It has always been the present President's wish that Queen's should not be behind any college in the means of instruction; he has, therefore, introduced men of the best abilities from the other colleges among the fellows of Queen's, who find in him a steady friend and patron. The interior

terior management of the college has also been much improved, by the correction of many abuses, which were sanctioned by long prescription. *Ad deterius* is the tendency of every institution, unless this salutary interference of authority sometimes takes place. Few, however, like Milner, have fortitude enough to support the obloquy which innovation, however laudable, is apt to produce. At the time he was under-graduate, it was the custom for sizers to wait on the fellows, to dine after they had done, and submit to many other degrading circumstances. These servile distinctions, with a recollection how injurious they were to his former feelings, Mr. Milner has also abolished.

A short time after he became president of Queen's, he took out his doctor's degree, and was presented with the deanery of Carlisle. It is his custom to visit this place regularly every year, but he seldom resides there long. Hull, before the decease of his brother, (for whom he entertained a high regard, but called, on account of his methodism, his *strange brother,)* was the most favourite place of his residence. His lodgings were a complete work-shop, filled with all kinds of carpenter's and turner's instruments. He was accustomed here to relax his mind daily from the fatigues of study, by some manual labour. His lathe and appendages for turning were extremely curious, and cost him no less than one hundred and forty guineas. He had also a very curious machine,

chine, partly of his own invention, which formed and polished at the same time, with the utmost possible exactness, watch-wheels of every description.

A celebrated moralist of the present day maintains, that manual labour is one great source of happiness. It is evident that we cannot bear, without injury, for any long time, intense and uninterrupted thought; it is equally clear, that, when the mind, without any object of pursuit, is left to its own spontaneous sensibilities, it turns either to the future or the past; and, as we are either melancholy or gay, so is the prospect before us. This state, therefore, of sensibility, exercising the mind, not according to the real existence of things, but to their accidental impression, is seldom profitable; besides this, it can be no relief to a mind already wearied with deep thinking. Something is wanted for this purpose, which gently exercises the mental powers, on some corporeal movement. Manual labour, requiring just dexterity enough to abstract the mind from its accustomed operations, seems best to answer this end. Let it not, therefore, be a matter of surprise or ridicule, that a man, of enlarged understanding, as in the present instance, should stoop for amusement to the drudgery of mechanical employment. It is not even enough to call Uncle Toby's whims inoffensive, they were really useful; and our hobbies, whatever they be, are founded in nature, and indispensable to our happiness.

The

The literary productions of Dr. Milner are but few; but, as they bear the stamp of genius, they have procured him much reputation, and a fellowship in the Royal Society. They consist of communications to that respectable body; the first of which is dated 16th February, 1778, concerning the communication of motion by impact and gravity. Another paper treats of the limits of algebraical equations, and contains a general demonstration of Des Cartes' rule for finding the number of affirmative and negative roots: this is dated February 26th. In the following June, we find another communication on the precession of the equinoxes.

Dr. Milner, as a chemist, ranks very high. The French are said to have availed themselves of his discovery concerning the composition of nitre, which has enabled them to supply, without foreign assistance, the vast consumption of that article, used in the manufacture of gunpowder.

On the death of Dr. Waring, Dr. Milner, in 1798, was made Lucasian professor of mathematics, to which is annexed a salary of 100*l.* a year. Thus, we see, with no other advantages, but those of ability and merit, a person rising from the obscurest rank of life, and, together with all his other literary di tinctions, filling even the chair of the immortal Newton. Desert, crowned with success, must, to every generous mind, afford a high degree of satisfaction; while, at the same time, it holds out a fostering encouragement to those seeds of genius

genius which otherwise might lie dormant in the bosom of indigence and obscurity. Although a considerable portion of the life of Dr. Milner was employed in the laborious occupation of a mechanic, yet, untinctured with any former habits, his manners and sentiments eminently display the refined taste of the scholar and the gentleman; so that the very disadvantages, under which he laboured in the former part of his life, only so much the more enhance our admiration of his present attainments.

Urit enim fulgore suo.

THOMAS LEWIS O'BEIRNE, D. D.

BISHOP OF MEATH.

THE subject of this Memoir furnishes an additional name to grace the catalogue of those truly illustrious characters, who, by their private and public virtues, have triumphed over every opposition, and raised themselves to honourable eminence in society.

The difficulties arising from a state of parental obscurity were not the only obstacles which Dr. O'Beirne had to surmount, in common with several prelates of the church of England, still more distinguished than himself. Born and educated

cated within the pale of the Roman-Catholic church, he had, at first, to overcome the spirit of religious prejudice, carefully infused into a tender mind, and afterwards to contend with the force of public opinion, which is not apt to give credit to the professions of those who renounce an old, and unexpectedly embrace a new, system of worship. He has, however, completely succeeded in impressing the public mind with a firm conviction of the purity of his motives, and the natural mildness of his temper, unperverted by the rancorous impulse of new-born zeal, has excited regret, without censure, in the members of the religion that lost him, and admiration, without envy, in the reverend teachers of the faith which he now professes.

Dr. O'Beirne was born in the county of Longford, in Ireland, about the year 1748. His father, who was a petty farmer and keeper of cows, highly esteemed for his integrity, after bestowing a classical education on the Doctor and his younger brother John, was so gratified with the general opinion entertained of their natural and acquired talents, that he resolved, with the consent of the *titular* bishop of the diocese, to devote them to the service of him, to whom all their improvements were piously to be attributed. He immediately took the necessary measures to send them to St. Omer's, in order to qualify them for the functions of the Roman-Catholic priesthood. The Doctor, however, convinced of the vast importance of the sacred engagements into which he was solicited to enter,

enter, thought it his duty to ascertain the truth of some particular tenets of his paternal religion with which his mind had, for some time before, been greatly perplexed. With this conscientious view, he was naturally led to a minute investigation of the subject, and it terminated, after a variety of struggles, in his sincere conversion to the creed of the established church.

Instead of returning to the county of Longford to perform the monotonous duties of a parish-curate among Irish peasants,* he turned his steps towards London, the proper scene for literary talents and adventure.

His brother, on the contrary, punctually complied with the wishes of his family and friends; and it is a singular circumstance, that they met, for the first time, after an interval of many years, the one officiating as a Roman-Catholic clergyman in the parish, where the other resided as a Protestant prelate.

* To a mind, whose views learning has expanded, and in which there is much of an active principle, scarcely any situation can appear more disgusting than that of a Catholic priest in a remote Irish county, where his intercourse must be confined chiefly to a class of men, whose minds, if not absolutely barbarous, are at best removed from barbarism by a single step; a class in which he can meet little but extreme poverty, gross ignorance, and offensive superstition. Mr. O'Beirne, before he left college, seems to have seen in this light the lot to which he found himself consigned, and he endeavoured to make an effort to fix himself in a better soil.

Dr.

Dr. O'Beirne was chaplain in the fleet under the command of Earl Howe, during a considerable part of the American war. He so eminently distinguished himself in that situation by the piety of his conduct, the excellency of his sermons, and the strictness of his attention to official duties, that he soon attracted the notice of the noble admiral, and was at length promoted to the chaplaincy of the flag-ship, the Eagle, of 64 guns. His conversation and manners, which have ever been peculiarly pleasing, soon accomplished for him what his reputation as a clergyman had commenced, and he was honoured with the confidence of the commander-in-chief.

The calamitous fire, which happened at New York in 1776, supplied him with an opportunity of displaying the docrines of Christianity in the most edifying and consolatory manner. To make the precept and practice of the gospel go hand in hand had been his constant study from the moment he entered into holy orders; and, while he cultivated, in private, every mean within his power to soften the horrors and alleviate the miseries of war, he was appointed to preach in St. Paul's church, the only one in New York which had been preserved from the fury of the flames. His discourse on that melancholy occasion has been often mentioned as the effusion of a mind animated with the purest sentiments of charity and brotherly love, and it has been justly praised

as

as a composition remarkable for dignified and pathetic eloquence.

On his return from America, when the conduct of Lord Howe, and more particularly that of his brother, Sir William Howe, with respect to the direction and execution of military operations, became the subject of general animadversion and parliamentary inquiry, and was boldly censured in newspapers and pamphlets, supposed to be written by persons in high credit and confidence with ministry; Dr. O'Beirne came forward in defence of his friends and patrons, (for, he was also much esteemed by Sir William,) and published a pamphlet in vindication of them, that had an extensive circulation, and was extolled by the adherents of the general and admiral.

While Mr. O'Beirne served in America, he had strengthened his connection with his patrons by a new tie: he married a lady, who, it is said, was the particular friend of Sir William Howe, and whose interest he was inclined to promote from the strongest motives. Thus allied, as it may be said, to the Howes, and thus distinguished by his zeal in their service, it is not to be wondered that they took care to patronize him.

His introduction to the leading members of Opposition happened in the year 1779, through the medium of Lord Howe and Sir William, who were received with open arms by the opponents of ministry, as they fondly indulged in the hope that they should, from such a connection, find

grounds sufficient for condemning the measures of administration, and transferring to themselves the reins of power. Dr. O'Beirne was, after a short time, particularly countenanced by the Duke of Portland, who frequently expressed, without reserve, the satisfaction he derived from the pleasant and instructive conversation of his new acquaintance.

In order to recommend himself more effectually to that party, he wrote a spirited pamphlet in their favour, called "The Gleam of Comfort." It was highly applauded by the writers and friends of Opposition, and was generally allowed to possess no inconsiderable degree of merit. In March, 1782, when the Rockingham party came into power, he accompanied the Duke of Portland, then his avowed patron, and appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland, to that country as his private secretary. He was also nominated one of his chaplains. But it unfortunately happened that his Grace had not, from the short duration of his government, which did not last quite four months, any opportunity of providing, as he wished, for his reverend *protégé*.

An anecdote related of Dr. O'Beirne, during his residence in Ireland, as private secretary to the lord-lieutenant, and with the authenticity of which we have good reasons to be satisfied, will more fully lay open the secret recesses of his heart than a thousand volumes written by panegyrists, whose only documents are the actions of his public life. One

One of his oldest acquaintances, of the name of Hagarty, who had been, for many years, employed in the Excise, was superannuated, and obliged to retire, with a large family, on the miserable salary of 10*l.* per annum. He had heard of the Doctor's preferment, and was advised to solicit his interest. Though he at first declined the advice, from motives of despair or bashfulness, necessity at length silenced his scruples, and he sent a letter to the secretary. Dr. O'Beirne immediately dispatched a messenger for him, received him in the most friendly manner, and assured him, "that, though he had never applied to the lord-lieutenant for a favour, he would do so on the present occasion, both on account of their former acquaintance, and the distress to which a numerous and helpless family was exposed. If he succeeded, Hagarty should of course be re-placed on the establishment; if not, he would cheerfully allow him a yearly sum out of his private purse equal to that which he received when in full employment." It is almost needless to add that he did succeed, and that poor Hagarty and his family were rescued from ruin.

The death of the Marquis of Rockingham having led to the dissolution of the administration formed under his auspices, the Duke of Portland was succeeded in the government of Ireland by the Marquis of Buckingham, then Earl Temple, in July, 1782, and returned to London with his private secretary and chaplain. His Grace, now

perfectly convinced, from his experience in Irish affairs, of the Doctor's talents for political business, employed his pen and had recourse to his advice on almost every important occasion. He was initiated in all the mysteries of Opposition, and assisted at several secret conferences held by its leaders. He became peculiarly attached to Mr. Fox, and we are enabled to state, that his admiration of that great statesman's powers and virtues has not been diminished by the extraordinary changes which have since appeared to take place in political sentiment.

The idea of the ever-memorable coalition was then suggested as the only certain mode of hurling from the helm of power rivals, who had dared to intercept and monopolize the fruits of so many painful, but successful, labours; who had presumed to appropriate to themselves the spoils of that political *Troy*, which had only fallen after a desperate siege of ten years, and in the breaches of which *they* had not ventured to expose themselves, until a triumphant entrance was no longer doubtful. It was accordingly agreed to, and succeeded. But the victory was transient; and even the moment of exultation was darkened with prognostics of speedy disappointment and defeat.

When the Duke of Portland was raised to the important office of first lord of the Treasury, in April, 1783, he appointed Dr. O'Beirne his private secretary. He performed the duties of the situation with great industry for upwards of eight months, when

when the coalition was, in its turn, divested of authority, and compelled to retire. He had not, however, been neglected by his patron; for, on the day previous to the nomination of Mr. Pitt as first lord of the Treasury, he was put into possession of two livings situated in Northumberland and Cumberland, valued at nearly 700*l.* a year, which were in the gift of government. The manner in which these livings were conferred on him both by the zealous interference of his noble patron and the prompt assistance of a noble lord now very high in legal honours, served to inspire him with additional ardour in support of his political friends, and he carried his gratitude and enthusiasm so far as to appear the public attendant of "*the man of the people.*" When Mr. Fox's carriage was drawn by the populace into the court of Devonshire-house, the Duke of Norfolk was seated on the box, and Colonel North with Dr. O'Beirne thought themselves honoured in standing behind it as inferior, but necessary, figures, to complete the group of the patriotic pageant.

The French revolution produced a revolution of political doctrine in the mind of the Duke of Portland, and the ideas of the ex-secretary continued to revolve in co-incidence with those of his noble patron. "The Gleam of Comfort," which Dr. O'Beirne had viewed some years at a distance, was now brightening into meridian lustre, and his days of labour and nights of contemplation were soon to be rewarded with the honours of episcopacy.

He accompanied Earl Fitzwilliam to Ireland, as his first chaplain, and was made Bishop of Ossory. He has been since translated, on the death of the Honourable Dr. Maxwell, to the see of Meath, valued at 5,000*l.* per annum.

Bishop O'Beirne was among the most active and zealous of those who supported the measures and promoted the principles of the Fitzwilliam administration. He was particularly so in furtherance of what seemed to be the primary object of the viceroy, the emancipation, as it was called, of the Catholics; for, though Bishop O'Beirne is a convert to the faith of Protestantism, he is not at all actuated by that outrageous zeal against the faith which he has renounced, which generally marks the proselyte. He wrote, himself, in furtherance of that measure. When Lord Fitzwilliam was removed from office, and the character and measures of his administration came to be canvassed with rather a severe and acrimonious spirit in the Irish House of Peers, Bishop O'Beirne stood forward with honest warmth and distinguished ability in defence of his absent, and, as he conceived, injured, patron. His speech in the House of Lords, on that occasion, was reckoned among the best which have been delivered in that assembly.

Whatever difference of opinion may exist with respect to his political life, his exemplary conduct in discharging the sacred functions of his present dignified office has united every sentiment in his favour.

favour. He delivered a charge to the clergy of his diocess of Ossory, which is, perhaps, unexampled in point of pastoral simplicity and apostolic doctrine. He candidly admitted the obscurity of his birth, and made a solemn declaration, that, in the ecclesiastical promotions, which were at his disposal, he should be influenced by the merits of the candidates only. He instituted monthly lectures, on topics of religious controversy and subjects selected from the History of the Church, while chapters from the New Testament were occasionally translated, and the most approved commentators and expositors were carefully consulted. It was not uncommon, during these lectures, to see them attended by clergymen, from a distance of twenty or thirty miles, who probably had not, for twenty or thirty years, looked into the original text. But while he exacted a punctual attention to duties, peculiarly necessary in a country where the sophistry of the church of Rome was either thought unworthy of the honour of a contest, or was allowed to triumph, without opposition, over the blind credulity of her disciples, and the frequent ignorance of her opponents, he constantly distinguished himself by his attention to the interests of the clergy under his jurisdiction. His house and table were always open to them, particularly to those of the inferior order; and he has never been reproached with neglecting any opportunity to reward the claims of merit, however destitute of recommendation.

As a preacher, Dr. O'Beirne ranks in the first class. His sermons seldom relate to the thorny points of controversial theology, which are more calculated to confound than to enlighten. He is generally satisfied with expatiating on the grand and essential doctrines of Christianity, and his diction is perspicuous, animated, and nervous. He is occasionally sublime, frequently pathetic, and always intelligible to his auditors. Though gifted with considerable powers of imagination, he studiously checks them, when they seem to interfere in the pure fervency of devotion. He appears to have made it his great object,

> "To discipline his fancy, to command
> The heart; and, by familiar accents, move
> The Christian soul." ——

The conduct of his lordship, in private life, has been ever distinguished for that liberality of heart and urbanity of manners which evince a just knowledge of the duties of society. Several of his sermons have been published.

His person is of the middle size, slight, and indicating an age of about sixty years. His face is thin, and expressive of the qualities which form his character. But, it is remarkable, that, notwithstanding the great variety of life which he has seen, the greater part of which has occurred out of Ireland, and in the most exalted situations among men not Irish, his countenance is yet strongly characterized by those peculiar traits which, to a good physiognomist, are supposed to mark the Irish Catholic.

THE

THE REV. WILLIAM FARISH

WAS son to a clergyman of Carlisle; at the grammar-school of which place he was educated, previously to his removal to the university. He did not display, in this early part of life, any of that ability which afterwards marked his progress in mathematical science. Though naturally endowed with a clear discriminating mind and capacious memory, yet, whether from want of any peculiar bent of genius, or the circumstance of his studies being more particularly adapted to those of Cambridge, he was never remarkable for any great proficiency in classical knowledge.

From this, it would not be proper to infer, that he did not possess a mind susceptible of those fine impressions, which the charms of composition are calculated to produce. Taste, for any particular branch of study, is partly natural and partly acquired. The nice discrimination of beauty, on which it is founded, is soon injured by neglect; and what we cease to cultivate loses, in time, the power to please. This accounts for that indifference with which Mr. Farish passed through the flowery regions of classical literature. His mind was chiefly conversant with distinct and accurate ideas, not exercised on sentiments and feelings, but on the number, weight, extent, and capacity, of things. This science, in proportion as he comprehended

prehended it, became the object of his peculiar taste; and appeared to exceed all others, as much in importance, as it did in clear and demonstrative evidence: the indistinct beauty, therefore, and undefined grace, of the Muses, were ever after thrown aside, or but partially attended to by him.

With this strong bias to mathematics, Mr. Farish, at the age of sixteen, entered sizer at Magdalen-College, Cambridge; and, during his under-graduateship, was an example of subordination, sobriety, and close application to his studies, to all his fellow-collegians.

No person perhaps is always consistent with himself; sometimes the timid are bold, and the bold timid. When Mr. Farish took his bachelor's degree, owing to his modest unassuming manner, he was in danger of being placed in a situation below his merit. Perceiving this, he challenged the whole senate-house to a trial of mathematical skill; and, by this spirited but unusual expedient, he attained the first honour of his year,—that of being *senior wrangler*.

When an under-graduate, to preserve himself free from every thing which might seduce his mind from study, it was Mr. Farish's uniform practice never to associate familiarly with the gay, the idle, or dissolute. His companions were men of studious habits like his own; and who, like himself, have since arrived at respectability and preferment. This is the best proof that can be given of the soundness of his early judgement.

In

In the success and advancement of a whole society of young men, as in the instance before us, is seen the importance of good and constitutional principles; their effects are not arbitrary, but uniform; not casual, but certain. Among his college-friends were numbered, Dr. Jowett, the present professor of laws, remarkable, as well for his deep researches in Roman and English jurisprudence, as for the purity of his Latin diction; also the Rev. Mr. Miles Atkinson, of Leeds, respectable, as the founder of an institution for gratuitously educating young men of promising abilities at both our universities; and the Rev. Mr. Venn, the present learned and worthy rector of Clapham.

These, with a few others, formed a kind of defensive league against surrounding dissipation; and for that reason were branded with the name of Methodists. Their future lives, however, have borne testimony to the sincerity of their intentions, and stamped their characters with the seal of virtuous and persistive constancy.

A short time after taking his degree, Mr. Farish was chosen fellow and tutor of his college. For the classical part of education he chose an assistant. The lectures in mathematics he conducted in a manner which has done credit to himself, and considerably raised the reputation of the college; since its numbers have, of late years, considerably increased.

Few persons are more conscientious in the discharge of their duty than Mr. Farish. This, those

who

who are under his care know to their cost, as it opposes a considerable barrier to their favourite propensities. They are apt to think him arbitrary, therefore, where he has only exercised a necessary and temperate authority; but such an opinion must be taken with considerable limitation, since the party aggrieved can seldom make an impartial judgement.

This high sense of duty, by which the conduct of Mr. Farish is regulated, has been a misfortune to many. When proctor, the discipline of the university was kept unusually strict. Once, in his accustomed nightly rounds with his attendants, he observed three gownsmen enter one of those houses of illicit accomodation, whose doors, like those of Dis,

Noctes atque dies patent.

An authoritative rap soon announced the arrival of the proctor. To escape was impossible; for, the besieger had placed his men at every avenue leading to the building. An out-house seemed to offer the best security to the prisoners, and to this they fled for security. In the mean time the proctor entered: he examined and threatened, but all in vain;—nobody had been there. Unwilling, however, to give up the testimony of his senses, in conformity to the wishes of those, whom he deemed parties concerned in the business, he continued his search, till at last he arrived at the out-house. A tub in one corner, and a recent inundation of water, created suspicion. The proctor no sooner began

began to restore it to its natural position, than the successor to its former contents appeared underneath, with all his dripping "honours thick about him." But this, to speak mathematically, explained only one part of the problem; two other quantities were still wanting; and the present investigator was the fittest person in the world to find them out. These were at length discovered roosting quietly, as two fowls at midnight, on a beam over his head. This, in the opinion of Mr. Farish, was no small misdemeanor; and, as he was one on whom the pleas of any juvenile indiscretion and fellow-feeling of his own could not operate, the offenders had nothing to expect from him, in the way of mitigated punishment. They were convened before the vice-chancellor, and a day was appointed, when they must either acknowledge their offence in full senate, and ask forgiveness, or be expelled the university. This is mentioned, not to blame, but to do honour to, Mr. Farish, as a strict disciplinarian in a place, where both those in *statu dominanti et pupillari* are not remarkable for unexceptionable conduct.

Mr. Farish never committed himself before the public as an author; but has chosen his path rather along the "sequestered vale" of science. Few persons, however, are better known, or more respected for their talents. In an age when improvement is extremely difficult, even in the slightest thing, Mr. Farish has struck out a new road to knowledge, equally bold and interesting. For

many

many years, during the long vacation at Cambridge, it has been his custom to travel into every part of the kingdom, where any thing curious was to be found; to visit the work-shops of artificers; to descend into mines; to observe the improvements of the arts; and to take models of every thing valuable in machinery. His collection of this kind, thus made with astonishing labour and expense, is the epitome of every thing which supports the commercial consequence, and ministers to the convenience and luxury, of this country. Cotton-mills, looms, polishing machines, steam-engines, sawing-mills, and contrivances of every kind, to facilitate labour, here in miniature, are capable of performing their several movements with all the exactitude of their originals. Mr. Farish gives public lectures, annually, on these, in Cambridge, to the students of the several colleges, who not only find them very instructive, but amusing also: they are in general, therefore, very well attended. In these lectures, the operations of the machines are not only described, but actually brought into effect. Raw materials, of every kind, are brought before his pupils, and undergo, with surprising speed and ingenuity, every ordeal of workmanship, till they arrive to their ultimate perfection. It is not unusual to see, in the course of one lecture, gunpowder, hats, vases, and various other things, start into existence from their constituent elements; so that, while an ordinary person, in the course of his life, becomes acquainted with

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one trade, Mr. Farish, in the course of a few years, has made himself master of almost every trade and manufacture in the kingdom. For versality, therefore, of knowledge, in this way, he stands unrivalled.

This undertaking was the speculation of an individual; and it is to be wished, his endeavours may be crowned with that success, which they so richly deserve. This can never be done by the profits of the lectures, let them be ever so well attended. As they are highly pleasing, and instruct our future magistrates and legislators in all the detail of manufactural economy, without the expense and fatigue of travelling; and as this knowledge may operate as well to the preservation, as future improvement, of the arts, would it not be a becoming public retribution to the ingenious institutor, for the university to purchase his collection at a liberal price, and create a mechanical professorship, with a good salary, the first chair of which Mr. Farish himself should fill? — Arts and useful inventions have arisen and disappeared; but, while a public conservatory of these things exists, the danger of such an accident is prevented, and the *status quo* of improvement effectually preserved.

The plan of these lectures may not have been originally Mr. Farish's, but the execution certainly is. Bishop Watson, at the end of his chemical works, first started the idea.

The only improvement that Mr. Farish seems to have made in mechanics is a certain curve in the form

form of cogs, which enables a system of wheels to work with the least possible friction. A mill has been constructed in the north of England on this plan, and found to answer as well in practice as it promised in theory.

In the year 1792, Mr. Farish stood candidate for the professorship of natural and experimental philosophy; but it was gained by Mr. Wolleston. In 1794, he was made professor of chemistry. He is, beside, president of Magdalen-College, and rector of Clifton, in Northamptonshire. Though his avocations are very numerous, yet he does not think himself thereby exempted from the particular duties of his clerical profession; he therefore holds a curacy, within a few miles of Cambridge, which he regularly supplies every Sunday.

The most intricate parts of mathematics are become so familiar to Mr. Farish, that he reads them for his amusement. He has been known, even by a slight inspection, to detect errors in a problem of considerable perplexity and length, prepared for the senate-house by the united care of the other examiners.

The late Dr. Waring was so sensible of his profound knowledge, that he paid but an ill compliment to the other members of the university, by saying, "that nobody understood his writings but Mr. Farish."

His modesty, however, supersedes his merit.—At a learned discussion which took place among some of the heads of Cambridge, they all spoke

except

except Mr. Farish. One of the company, much celebrated for his wit and learning, at length said, "We have been talking for this hour in vain; and Farish, who knows more about the matter than all of us put together, has not uttered a word." In promiscuous company, taciturnity is certainly a striking feature in Mr. Farish's character. Every thing he says seems to be the result of deep thought, and not the spontaneous flow of social and unsuspecting confidence. Among his intimates, however, he relaxes, it is said, into the facetious and agreeable companion. Mechanism, topography, trade, and manufactures, are his favourite topics of conversation. Having spent the chief part of his life in a college, naturalized to authority on one hand, and submission on the other, his manners, though mild, still retain a peculiarity, which distinguish them from easy and polite equality. Without any reciprocity of his own, he is acquainted with the methods of diving into the opinions of others; and, on all occasions, has approved himself a watchful guardian of the interests of our present establishments. S. K.

SIR FRANCIS BOURGEOIS, R. A.

THIS ingenious artist is descended from a family of great respectability at Berne, in Switzerland,

land, where many of his ancestors filled offices of considerable trust in the state.

He was born in London in the year 1756, and was, at an early age, destined by his father to the profession of arms, in consequence of the friendship entertained for the family by the late Lord Heathfield, who had promised to procure a commission in the army for the son.

The young mind of our artist was now occupied with ideas of martial glory, and he constantly attended military evolutions and reviews. Every inducement to alter the natural bias of his talents proved ineffectual; for, having been instructed, while a child, in some of the rudiments of painting by a Mr. Cervant, a foreigner of inconsiderable merit as a painter of horses, he paid more attention to the imitative art, and exerted himself more assiduously to represent with his pencil the manœuvres he beheld, than to acquire a knowledge of the tactical principles on which they were conducted. About this time he attended almost daily the celebrated riding-academy of Mr. Angelo, in Soho-Square, and took peculiar delight in drawing horses in their various attitudes.

Some of his juvenile essays were seen and praised by Sir Joshua Reynolds and Mr. Gainsborough; and, encouraged by their approbation, he relinquished all thoughts of the military profession, and entirely devoted himself to the cultivation of an art to which the impulse of genius irresistibly directed his powers. Loutherbourg, who admired his early

promise

promise of future excellence, readily consented to take him under his tuition. But he did not remain with that able master a longer time than was necessary to acquire a correct knowledge of the true principles of painting, and then determined to indulge his pursuits in the great school of nature, and to study the works of the most eminent masters. From the respectability of his connections, he experienced no difficulty in gaining admission to the best collections in this country; and in the late Marshal Conway, whose taste as a *connoisseur*, and whose amiable qualities as a member of private society, will be long remembered, he found a sincere friend and a liberal patron.

Before he attained the age of twenty, he had acquired no mean reputation by his landscapes and sea-pieces, and some of them are now allowed places in cabinets, distinguished for elegance of selection. In 1776, Sir Francis travelled through the Low Countries, France, and Italy, and studied with indefatigable attention the various beauties that grace the productions of different masters and different ages. The facility with which he spoke several modern languages, particularly the French and Italian, was of peculiar service to him in his tour, and procured him an easy introduction to the most precious collections of the fine arts on the continent.

On his return, he continued to prosecute his studies with increased ardour and reputation, and his exhibitions in the Royal Academy consi-

 derably

derably enlarged the circle of his friends and admirers.

About this time, the Prince Primate, brother to the amiable and unfortunate Stanislaus Augustus, king of Poland, came to reside for a few months in this country, and was so captivated with the works of our artist, that he frequently passed whole mornings in his painting-room. His Highness was also very much gratified with the engaging manners and pleasing conversation of Sir Francis, and constantly honoured him with invitations to his select parties. The Prince made him the most liberal offers to induce him to go to Poland, but they were as gratefully acknowledged as they were politely declined.

He was, in 1791, appointed painter to the King of Poland, who also conferred on him the honours of knighthood of the Order of MERIT; and, having been on that occasion introduced at our court to their Majesties, the King was pleased to confirm the title.

In 1792, he was elected a member of the Royal Academy, without any solicitation on his part; and, in 1794, was appointed landscape-painter to his Majesty.

The works of Sir Francis are numerous, and many of them not only grace several of the principal collections in this country, but have found their way into some distinguished cabinets on the continent. His facility in the execution of any subject, which he conceives, has been long a matter

of

of surprise, and the happy variety of tints and glow of colouring with which his chief productions are embellished evidently shew that his labour is "the labour of love, not the task of the hireling." The composition of his pictures is generally in strict conformity to nature, and he is surpassed by few in his just application of the principles of perspective, and in the judicious grouping of his figures.

It is, however, to be lamented, that, in some of his pieces, a hastiness of finishing is observable; and his admirers have often regretted, that, capable as he is of making a distinguished figure in the superior departments of historical painting, he has not allowed his powers to take that extensive range for which they seem sufficiently qualified.

The manners of Sir Francis are highly attractive. His conversation affords pleasure and instruction, and the readiness with which he has, on all occasions, exerted his interest in favour of rising genius or distressed merit, is an honourable testimony of the liberality of his mind. N.

DUKE OF RICHMOND.

THE Duke of Richmond was born on the 22d of February, 1735; he succeeded his father in titles and estate the 8th of August, 1750, and took his seat in the House of Lords in 1756. His Grace

attached himself to the Whig interest, which at that period was headed by the first Duke of Newcastle, but took no active part in the political contests of the latter part of the reign of George the Second.

At the commencement of the present reign, he was colonel of the 72d regiment of foot, and was esteemed a rising military character, having received the particular thanks of Prince Ferdinand of Brunswick for his conduct and intrepidity at the battle of Minden. He appears, however, to have taken an early disgust to the political system that commenced with the administration of Lord Bute. In 1763, he may be said to have entered upon his political career, when he was distinguished as a bold and dignified speaker in the House of Peers against the measures of Lord Bute and his successor Mr. George Grenville. In 1765, the Tory system experienced a complete overthrow, and the satellites of Lord Bute gave way to the Whigs, headed by their leader, Lord Rockingham, under whose auspices the Stamp-Act was repealed, the tranquillity and confidence of America restored, and the principles of government (which had been introduced at the Revolution, and had raised the country to such a height of splendor and greatness in the succeeding reigns) apparently re-established. In this administration, the Duke of Richmond held the office of secretary of state, the duties of which he discharged with ability and general approbation. In little more than a year, this

this administration gave way to a motley and discordant group of Whigs and Tories, the latter of whom were accused of acting under the *secret influence* of the favourite Lord Bute, who had not courage to avow himself any longer the adviser of measures, to the execution of which a considerable degree of responsibility was necessarily annexed. The Duke of Grafton, though for a short time the ostensible leader of the new administration, soon surrendered his situation to Lord North, who persevered in the system of favouritism till he involved the country in a war with France, Spain, and Holland; lost America, and doubled the debt of the nation. During the whole of this momentous interval, from 1767 to 1782, the Duke of Richmond was one of the most active opponents of all those measures which tended to involve his country in ruin. He was closely united with the Rockingham party, but he went beyond most of the Whigs in his zeal for the principles of civil and political liberty. In 1781, he introduced into parliament a project for an annual and equal representation of the people, which has been admired and applauded by many of the wisest and most virtuous characters of the country.

His plan was to make the election of the representatives of the people annual, and the right of voting universal.

The kingdom of Great Britain was to be divided into five hundred districts; each district to contain an equal population, and to choose one member.

 The

The election to begin and end in one day.

The people to be registered in each district three months before the election, with their profession, trade, or employment, and the street or place of their abode.

To give their votes in the parish-church of their residence before the church-wardens, who were to close the poll at the setting of the sun on the day the election was to commence, and deliver the same, personally, to the sheriff of the district, who was to sum up the whole on that day se'nnight, at the most central town of the district, and make his return of the person who had a majority of the suffrages of the people.

Every male person in the country, who had attained the age of twenty-one years, (criminals and insane persons only excepted,) to have a vote in the election of the representatives of the people.

At this time his Grace was at the head of the Constitutional Society, a member of the committees of the county of Sussex and city of Westminster, appointed to effect a parliamentary reform, and one of the nine delegates elected by the latter body to meet an equal number of delegates from each of the other committees constituted for the same purpose, to form a convention of the whole, in order to pursue the most effectual means for carrying this popular measure into effect.

At the assembly of the delegates, the Duke of Richmond was unanimously chosen president. They denominated themselves "the Convention of

of Delegates from the respective Committees constituted for obtaining a Reform in the State of the Representation of the People in Parliament," and displayed the most ardent and commendable zeal in the prosecution of an object so truly important.

Upon the fall of Lord North from power, and the overthrow of the Tory system in April, 1782, the Marquis of Rockingham and the Whigs returned into office, and the Duke of Richmond was appointed master-general of the Ordnance, and received the honour of the Garter. This administration was divided and annihilated in little more than three months after its commencement, in consequence of the unfortunate death of its leader. The Marquis of Lansdown was appointed first lord of the Treasury, and all the cabinet-ministers resigned, except the Duke of Richmond, Duke of Grafton, and General Conway. The Whigs had pledged themselves to the people to effect two grand measures, — a parliamentary reform and the conclusion of peace with America. In vain did the new administration profess the same principle and promise to pursue the same measures. The greatest part of the Rockingham party, comprising Mr. Fox, Mr. Burke, Mr. Sheridan, the Duke of Portland, Lord Fitzwilliam, the Cavendish family, Mr. Windham, Lord Keppel, and all the leaders, formed a coalition with Lord North and the discarded administration, and, composing a considerable majority in the two Houses of Parliament, at the opening of

of the ensuing session, compelled the Marquis of Lansdown to resign. Upon this memorable occasion, the Duke of Richmond took the lead in a new Opposition with the Marquis of Lansdown, Mr. Pitt, the Earl of Liverpool, (then Mr. Charles Jenkinson,) and Mr. Dundas; a still more heterogeneous and discordant combination than the party they opposed. In less than ten months, however, this new party, with the assistance of the court-influence, and from the unpopularity of the coalition, united in themselves all the efficient powers of government, which they have held ever since, while the Duke of Richmond resumed his place at the head of the Ordnance. The great desideratum of a reform in parliament was still considered as so far from being abandoned, that Mr. Pitt, the new minister, became its champion, and brought it forward three successive years in the House of Commons. Even Mr. Dundas was converted to its merits, and his name is to be found among the minority who divided in its favour. Thus supported by eloquence and power in parliament, and by the united voice of the country out of doors, it will astonish those who are not complete masters of the subject, how a measure of such universal popularity, so evidently calculated to harmonize the people, and make them adore their constitution and government, should have so repeatedly failed of success.

The Duke of Richmond, upon introducing his Reform-Bill in the House of Lords, declared, that "his

"his reasons in favour of a parliamentary reform were formed on the experience of twenty-six years, which, whether *in or out of government*, had equally convinced him, that the restoration of a genuine House of Commons, by a renovation of the rights of the people, was the only remedy against that system of corruption which had brought the nation to disgrace and poverty, and threatened it with the loss of liberty." He continued to exert himself as the most strenuous supporter of the measure, till the year 1784, when the meetings of the county and town committees were discontinued, the correspondence between them ceased, and the assembly or convention of delegates, of which the Duke was president, became insensibly annihilated.

His Grace's letters, to the volunteers of Ireland, are in the hands of most people. His style of writing and speaking is clear, manly, and full of intelligence. As a politician and a statesman, few men are so well informed. As a military character, his system of fortification has been much ridiculed; but the severest reproach that has been aimed at his public character has been that of apostasy from his public and avowed principles. This reproach, however, candor obliges us to remark, has never been satisfactorily substantiated.

In 1795, his Grace resigned the office of master-general of the Ordnance, and received the command of the royal regiment of Horse-Guards, blue; and has since obtained the bishopric of Chichester for

for his friend and domestic chaplain Dr. Buckner. His Grace is lord-lieutenant and custos rotulorum of the county of Sussex, a field-marshal, high steward of Chichester, colonel of the Sussex militia, and fellow of the Royal Society.

The Duke of Richmond is much attached to literary pursuits, and was distinguished, particularly during his intimacy with the late Field-Marshal Conway, for his patronage of the fine arts. With his secession from political discussion, a secession from every kind of activity as a public character seems to have taken place, and he now lives a retired life principally at Goodwood. His character in private life is truly respectable. As a sincere friend, an affectionate brother, and a fond relative, zealous to promote the interest of every branch of his family, his Grace has seldom been surpassed.

C.

MRS. ABINGTON.

IF to have enriched " the public stock of harmless pleasure," and to have soothed the cares of life by the fleeting effusions of mimic gaiety, merit honourable notice, the subject of the present biographical sketch is not without just claims to grateful mention and general praise.

Mrs. Abington, whose maiden-name was Barton, made her *début* in the Haymarket-Theatre under the management of the celebrated Theophilus

lus Cibber, who, in 1752, obtained a license from the lord-chamberlain to perform plays at that house. She had not attained her seventeenth year, when, encouraged by the high opinion entertained of her talents by the manager and several judicious critics, who had attended her rehearsals in private, she was induced to offer herself as a candidate for public favour in the character of Miranda in the comedy of the Busy Body. Her success was adequate to the most sanguine expectations of her friends, and she was afterwards engaged in the Bath company, then under the direction of that excellent comedian, Mr. King, now of Drury-Lane Theatre, who was the acting-manager. At the end of the following summer, she was seen on the Richmond stage, in one her principal characters, by Mr. Lacy, one of the patentees of Old Drury, who immediately engaged her for the winter-season. Her first part was Lady Pliant, and she was received with unbounded applause. Here she married Mr. Abington; and, seeing but a faint prospect of rising to eminence in her profession, while the chief characters, to which she aspired, were in the possession of Mrs. Clive, Mrs. Cibber, and more particularly of Mrs. Pritchard, she agreed to very advantageous proposals made to her by Messieurs Barry and Woodward, who had opened a theatre in Crow-Street, Dublin, in opposition to that in Smock-Alley under the management of Mr. Sheridan. She accordingly repaired to Dublin a short time before the

the close of the season of 1759, and soon became a distinguished favourite with the Irish audience.

The celebrity she acquired in Ireland soon reached London, and the public became desirous to behold the improvements of an actress, whose first essays had given so much pleasure. She was accordingly engaged by Mr. Garrick, at a considerable salary, on his return from his continental excursion; and, from her appearance at that time in the Widow Belmour, to the year 1782, she performed Lady Fanciful, in the Provoked Wife; Araminta, in the School for Lovers; Belinda, in All in the Wrong; Biddy Tipkin, in the Tender Husband; the second Constantia; Millamant; Miss Prue; Beatrice; Estifania; Clarinda; with a variety of other leading parts; and her claims to distinction, as the principal favourite of Thalia, were universally acknowledged. She was the original representative of Lady Alton, in the English Merchant; Charlotte, in the Hypocrite; Miss Rusport, in the West Indian; Lady Bab Lardoon; Roxalana; Lady Teazle; and Miss Hoyden, in the Trip to Scarborough, altered by Mr. Sheridan from Vanbrugh's comedy of the Relapse.

Some differences arising at this time between Mrs. Abington and the Drury-Lane proprietors, which it was found impossible to adjust to the satisfaction of both parties, she was engaged, by Mr. Harris, on very liberal terms. From the season of 1782-83, she continued, for several years, under

under the management of that gentleman, to delight the *amateurs* of the drama with the versatility of her powers; and, after a long secession from the London boards, during which she performed on the Dublin stage, she was induced, by the advice of her friends and the solicitation of the manager, to resume her situation in Covent-Garden Theatre in the season of 1797–98.

Though she certainly had lost much of the charms of face and the graces of person, that so peculiarly contribute to the embellishment of the poet's text, and without which the sense of the author and the expression of the actor are at variance, and tend to remind an audience, that the business of the scene is a fiction, she retained her former spirited action, her natural elegance of delivery, and was received, on her return, with the most enthusiastic marks of public favour.

Her last performance in public was for the benefit of Mr. Pope, this year, in her favourite part of Lady Racket, in Three Weeks after Marriage; and she performed the character of Lady Fanciful, on the 31st of last May, at Brandenburgh-House, to a select auditory, when the Margravine and Miss Berkeley appeared in Lady Brute and Belinda.

With respect to the former merits of Mrs. Abington, there exists but one opinion. Her professional attractions were truly captivating, and she had the happy art of displaying, in various lines, comic rusticity and exquisite humour, the graceful ease

ease of the accomplished woman of fashion, and the capricious airs of the fantastical coquette. Her late performances have produced some difference of sentiment. When she appeared, the captiousness of criticism was on the watch to discover defects, not to applaud beauties; and it was objected to Mrs. Abington, without making any candid allowance for a retirement of many years, and the unavoidable ravages of time, that she no longer possessed all those theatrical requisites for which she had once been so eminently distinguished. Her person and countenance are certainly much altered, but she still retains attractions of the first order,—unaffected ease, spirited elegance, and delicate discrimination. The natural manner in which she delivers her dialogue cannot be too highly praised. There is no study, no labour, no painful exertion to command attention, which reflection must ever condemn; and, like the celebrated French actor, *Baron*, whose talents triumphed over age and infirmity, she affords a striking proof, to use the language of one of her encomiasts of no mean reputation in the dramatic world, that

Nature, charming Nature, is eternal!

The conduct of Mrs. Abington, in private life is uncommonly engaging. Her conversation abounds in lively and instructive anecdote, and she has the honour of ranking among the number of her friends some of the most distinguished and respectable persons in both kingdoms. J. N.

WILLIAM

MR. SAURIN,

THE IRISH ADVOCATE.

THIS gentleman claims a place among public characters on two grounds; — first, as being the first man in point of reputation and practice at the Irish bar; and, next, as being the first, the most active, and, perhaps, the most efficient, opponent of a legislative union.

To the universality of the maxim that envy is the constant concomitant of merit, Mr. Saurin affords one exception; for, whether we consider him as a man in private life, or as a professional man in public, he stands in the first rank; and yet there is, perhaps, no man who has suffered less from the envy of competitors, or against whom Malice has less industriously directed her shafts. Combined with great talents and profound legal learning, there is in Mr. Saurin a modesty of demeanour, an unassuming gentleness, and general propriety of conduct, which either disarms malevolence or protects him against its assaults.

Mr. Saurin is the descendant of a French family, which appear to have held a reputable rank in life. His elder brother was for many years a captain of dragoons, and at present, besides his half-pay, enjoys the lucrative office of land-waiter of the port of Dublin; a place of which the

average-profits are reckoned at 800*l.* per annum. Of Mr. Saurin's younger days, nothing remarkable is related: he passed through the ordinary stages of school and college education without exciting much observation, and came to the bar with no other *éclat* than what was produced by the steady operation of sound sense and mild manners. Soon after, Mr. Saurin paid his addresses to a young lady of the name of Ormsby, who seemed to listen with complacency, if not pleasure, to the soft flowing tones* of the young barrister. For a very considerable period he contrived to prosecute his suit: his pleadings were drawn out to a great length. The lady generally demurred without shewing any special cause; and, though it was highly probable that issue would at length be joined between the parties, yet some temporary bar generally stood in the way of a final decision. While the affair was thus protracted by the art or the irresolution of the lady, an event happened which wholly frustrated Mr. Saurin's expectations. A very rich relation of Miss Ormsby's died, and a large estate, of which she had hitherto no near expectancy, became vested in her. A young lawyer, but just beginning to make his way in the world, appeared now to be quite an unfit match for Miss Ormsby. He was, therefore, informed that his visits as a suitor of that lady were no

* One of Mr. Saurin's distinguishing traits is the placid and smooth uniformity of his tones and diction.

longer acceptable, and the lady herself was immediately sent to Limeric, the place near which her newly-acquired property lay. Here she became acquainted with Mr. Perry, then the nephew and heir of Lord Glentworth, bishop of Limeric, and who has since succeeded to the title and estate of his lordship. Mr. Perry addressed her with more success than the disappointed Saurin; they were speedily married; and the discarded lover left to lament or to declaim against the fickleness of woman.

Mr. Saurin happily was too phlegmatic to sicken at this disappointment, or renounce the sex because he had been rejected or cajoled by one of them. He sought a remedy for disappointed love, by addressing another lady, in whom he hoped for more candor and more kindness. Lady Cox was the person to whom he now offered himself and his fortunes, such as they were. His offer was accepted. The marriage took place; and, though neither of the parties possessed much wealth, (indeed the joint fortunes of both scarcely afforded a competency,) yet the prudence, economy, and increasing practice, of Mr. Saurin, soon made up the deficiency, and abundantly furnished means of domestic comfort and honourable independence. Within a very few years after his marriage, the uncommon industry and great talents of Mr. Saurin became conspicuous, and procured for him the most extensive and lucrative business which the Irish Chancery afforded.

Among the Irish barristers, it has been truly observed, there exists, perhaps, much too strong a passion for obtaining a seat in parliament, and endeavouring to rise rather by their political than by their professional labours. Mr. Saurin has never been affected with this kind of spurious ambition. Since he became eminent as a lawyer, he has often been solicited to accept a seat in parliament, and support with his powers a government, which, for many years back, appears to have wanted all the talent, as well as all the influence, they could collect, to keep them afloat. He resisted those solicitations, and has preferred the tranquil enjoyments of domestic life, uninterrupted by the contention of political struggles, to the emoluments and rank of high office, and to the still more plausible and imposing rewards of popularity. Though the Irish government found themselves unable to enlist Mr. Saurin among their active and parliamentary partizans, they nevertheless continued to pay him the respect which they conceived to be due to his talents and his virtues. In the administration of Lord Camden, he was honoured with a patent of precedence, which gives him a right of pre-audience in the courts immediately after his Majesty's prime-sergeant. This was indeed but a just token of respect for the alacrity and zeal with which he promoted the plan for forming a military corps from among the members of the Irish bar, shortly previous to the first attempt of the French on the coast of Ireland, by which

which an example was set to the rest of the loyal people of the country, which has been followed with so much promptness, and has produced the salvation of the state. Of that corps Mr. Saurin was elected, and still continues, first captain; and on its interests and discipline he bestows the most unremitted attention.

It was not, however, till the project of an union between the two countries was taken up by the administration, that they seriously set about procuring the sanction and assistance of Mr. Saurin. To obtain his support, in that measure particularly, they shewed the most solicitous anxiety; probably because they knew or believed that the opinion of that gentleman would have great weight in regulating the opinion of the Irish bar, who were known to think so highly of his integrity and his talents. If it were with that view they wished to secure his support, they appear to have acted prudently; for, to the almost-unanimous opposition of the bar, an unanimity greatly owing to the example, the influence, and the reasoning, of Mr. Saurin, the first defeat of that measure may be fairly attributed.

On that important occasion, it is said, with great confidence, that administration offered to Mr. Saurin not only the prime-sergeantcy, when it should become vacant, but the place of attorney-general on the next promotion. This offer, Mr. Saurin is said to have declined; and it is also stated, that he was then offered the reversion of the Chancery.

 Instead,

Instead, however, of accepting these munificent offers, for which he was to advise and promote the surrender of the constitution and independence of his country, Mr. Saurin suggested to some of his brethren at the bar the necessity of calling a meeting of the barristers to consider the question of Union, which, as it had now been officially announced, was to be proposed to the Irish parliament in the ensuing session. A requisition was accordingly signed by a number of the most eminent characters in the profession, and among them Mr. Saurin, desiring a full meeting of the bar, on a certain day, to declare their sense respecting the agitation of that momentous subject. The meeting was accordingly held and most numerously attended. Mr. Saurin opened the business of the meeting in a speech, not long, but marked by that ingenious address which peculiarly distinguishes him. In this speech, he shortly and forcibly stated or insinuated almost every argument which has been urged against an union, and concluded, by a resolution, declaring it unwise and unnecessary, at that time, to agitate the question. A long discussion followed, which terminated in a division, on which there appeared a vast majority in support of Mr. Saurin's resolution. The exertions of the bar, against the measure, led as they were by Mr. Saurin, did not terminate in that effort. A swarm of energetic well-written pamphlets, from the leading members of the profession, for some months afterwards continued to enlighten and animate the public

public mind on that subject, and a periodical paper, called the ANTI-UNION, confined exclusively to that topic, and written with much zeal, much information, and great talent, contributed in no small degree to confirm the public, and, perhaps, the Commons themselves, in their reprobation of a legislative union. This paper was conducted and supported by four or five barristers, the intimate friends of Mr. Saurin, and guided in their management of it chiefly by him, though, from the pressure of professional business, he was himself unable to fill many of its pages.

His conduct, on this great occasion, made Mr. Saurin more than ever a favourite with the public, and, of his own profession, made him almost the idol. A meeting of the bar was again summoned, for the purpose of marking to the public the estimation in which his brethren held his character and his services to them and to the country. The meeting came to resolutions which must have been in the highest degree flattering to him, and which were certainly founded in justice. At present, Mr. Saurin continues to sustain the high character which he thus acquired by private and public virtue. He continues still to confine himself to his professional avocations, beyond which he stepped only on the single and most important occasion, when the liberty and independence of his country appeared to him to be assailed. If any change have taken place in the public mind respecting that momentous subject, Mr. Saurin yet

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remains unchanged; and it is some argument against a legislative union, that a man, acknowledged one of the most loyal, the most prudent, the most sagacious, and one the most learned in the constitution, has ever been, and remains, the decided and zealous opponent of that measure.

Mr. Saurin is low in stature; his countenance is characteristic of French origin; and, if the physiognomist be not rather influenced by what he knows *a priori* of the man, than by what he infers only from the visage of his subject, it bespeaks strongly a cool and sound judgement, a sagacious understanding, and a good heart. He is said to make considerably more in his profession than any other man at the Irish bar. There appears, however, no obvious or shining excellence in his manner of discharging his forensic duties. His diction is plain, but correct; his manner cool, disquisitional, and quite unimpassioned. His great merit as a bar-orator consists in the ingenuity of his statements, his colouring, his selection of facts, and his judicious arrangement of matter. He possesses a very strong memory, sound judgement, great legal knowledge, the result of laborious and early reading, and he is, above all, characterized for a degree of attention to business, to which even a young and a poor man is seldom found to submit.

W.

DOCTOR

DOCTOR SAMUEL ARNOLD.

(COMMUNICATED BY MR. THOMAS BUSBY.)

THIS gentleman, whose professional celebrity was so early acquired, and which has been so long and so deservedly maintained, received his musical education at the Chapel-Royal, St. James's, partly under the late Mr. Gates, and partly under his successor Dr. Nares.

The strong indications he evinced, even in infancy, of a genius formed for the cultivation of the tuneful science, determined his parents to yield to the bias of nature, by placing him in some respectable harmonic seminary. The inviting prospect of future patronage, from the late princesses Amelia and Caroline, was at the same time an additional inducement with them to give the fullest scope in their power to that impulse of genius, which, under skilful masters, could not but be productive of future honour and emolument to its possessor; and, at the express desire of those illustrious personages, he was, at the usual age of admission, placed in the King's Chapel. His ardent perseverance in study daily afforded the most convincing proofs that music was the science for which nature had designed him, and justified the choice his parents had made.

Mr.

Mr. Gates and Dr. Nares were masters of respectable abilities, and consequently knew how to appreciate and encourage dawning talents. The former of these gentlemen was, indeed, so partial to his assiduous and promising pupil, that he constantly distinguished him by marks of his particular favour, and at his death left him a legacy. From industry, combined with real genius, resulted that rapid progress which at once rewards and propels the aspiring student; and young Mr. Arnold, before he had reached manhood, rendered himself, by his taste and science, an ornament to the profession to which the future study of his life was to be devoted.

About the year 1760, Mr. Beard, of vocal celebrity, and at that time one of the managers of Covent-Garden Theatre, became acquainted with Mr. Arnold, and was so sensible of his extraordinary merit, as to be glad to avail himself of his talents by introducing him to the notice of the public as composer to that house. That justly admired and unaffected imitator of nature possessed all that simplicity of taste and chasteness of manner so happily calculated to draw forth the efforts of genuine ability; and, in composing for such a singer, Mr. Arnold necessarily adopted that strength and purity of melody calculated to touch the heart, and to which most of the nerveless and unnatural strains of later days do not seem even to pretend.

True

True genius, like the eagle, feels its power of superior flight, and disdains the track of mediocrity! It is, therefore, no wonder that Mr. Arnold, after his success with the Maid of the Mill and several other compositions, should feel the impulse to exert his talents upon an oratorio. The Cure of Saul, written by the late Rev. Dr. Brown, offered itself to his contemplation; and, in the year 1767, he made choice of that excellent poem for his first effort in the higher style of musical composition. In this attempt he so happily succeeded, that it was universally allowed to be the greatest production in its kind since the time of the immortal Handel. Mr. Arnold, who had never suffered his private interest to come in competition with the public good, generously made a present of this work to the Society instituted for the Benefit of decayed Musicians and their Families; and it proved to that society a most valuable acquisition. The fund had greatly sunk, and the receipts of their annual concerts were still decreasing. The Cure of Saul, however, attracted crowded audiences, and contributed to the restoration of that success and prosperity which had formerly marked the progress of that highly laudable institution. The distinguished honour with which Mr. Arnold had acquitted himself in the arduous task of composing an oratorio encouraged him to proceed; and soon after gave birth to a second production of the same kind, called Abimilech, which was succeeded by the Resurrection and

and the Prodigal Son. The latter three of these oratorios were, during several successive Lents, performed at the Theatre-Royal in the Haymarket, and Covent-Garden Theatre, under his own management and direction. His first enterprise was in the Haymarket, at play-house prices, and succeeded so far as to induce him to quit the Little Theatre. But the second speculation was not equally favourable. The plan on which he proceeded was certainly judicious; and, had he not been opposed by a powerful court-interest at Drury-Lane, must have answered his most sanguine expectations; but, from that opposition, together with his enormous expenses, and other unforeseen causes, it proved an unfortunate adventure. About the time that he wrote the Resurrection, he composed and published in score four sets of Vauxhall songs, the greater part of which are uncommonly sweet in their melodies, and in their accompaniments display much richness of taste, aided by a thorough acquaintance with the characters and powers of the various instruments. Of all his oratorios, the Prodigal Son reflects the greatest portion of honour on his talents and judgement. It is, indeed, for the most part, conceived in a manly and noble style, and exhibits much of that greatness and sublimity of mind indispensable to the production of oratorial composition. It formed a splendid addition to that laurel he had already so fairly earned, and gave him an indisputable station in that rank of composers which only true genius,

cultivated

cultivated by profound science, can ever hope to attain. The fame of this sacred drama was so high, that, when, in 1773, it was in contemplation to instal the late Lord North chancellor of the university of Oxford, the stewards, appointed to conduct the musical department of the ceremony, applied to the composer of the Prodigal Son for permission to perform that oratorio on the solemn occasion. Mr. Arnold's ready and polite acquiescence with this request procured him the offer of an honorary degree in the theatre; but, conscious of his own scientific qualifications, he preferred the academical mode; and, conformably to the statutes of the university, received it in the school-room, where he performed, as an exercise, Hughes's poem on the Power of Music. On such occasions, it is usual for the musical professor of the university to examine the exercise of the candidate; but Dr. William Hayes, then the professor of Oxford, returned Mr. Arnold his score unopened, saying, "Sir, it is quite unnecessary to scrutinize the exercise of the author of the Prodigal Son."

In the year 1771, Dr. Arnold married Miss Napier, daughter of Archibald Napier, Doctor in Physic, with which lady he received a handsome fortune. About the same year, he purchased, of Mr. Pinto, Marybone-Gardens, then the much-frequented scene of gaiety and fashion. For the better entertainment of the public, the Doctor furnished the gardens with a scenic stage, and composed and performed some excellent burlettas,

lettas, which were most favourably received. These short, but pleasing, pieces, while they evinced his versatile powers as a composer, assisted to display the vocal abilities of Miss Harper, (now Mrs. Bannister,) Miss Catley, Miss Brown, (afterwards Mrs. Cargil,) Mrs. Barthelemon, Mr. Charles Bannister, Mr. Reinhold, and many other respectable and well-known London performers. Ever anxious to merit that attention and encouragement with which the public distinguished his exertions to gratify the general taste, Dr. Arnold, at a very great expense, engaged, for the use of the gardens, the assistance of that ingenious artist, Signor Torré, whose fire-works excited the admiration of all who witnessed their beauty and magnificence; and whose representation of the Cave of Vulcan was allowed by all connoisseurs in the art to be the most striking and stupendous performance ever exhibited in this country. In 1776, the lease of the gardens expired; and that delightful spot, to which the votaries of taste and innocent pleasure had so long resorted, was, by the proprietors, let to various builders, and soon after converted into an integral part of the metropolis.

When Mr. Beard, after many years of meritorious public service, retired to the enjoyment of a well-earned competency, the late Mr. George Colman became his successor, as one of the managers of Covent-Garden Theatre. The classical and discriminating mind of this gentleman and scholar felt and acknowledged the sterling abilities of Dr.

Arnold;

Arnold; and he was desirous to retain so valuable an acquisition to the house. The place of composer to his theatre could not be better occupied than by a master whose merit the town had already so strongly stamped with the sanction of its approbation.

About the year 1776, the English Aristophanes quitted the stage, and Mr. Colman, having sufficient interest to procure the continuance of the patent, purchased the Haymarket-Theatre. Unwilling to lose the tributary service of those talents, by which he had already so greatly profited, he engaged Dr. Arnold to conduct the musical department in his new concern. This situation the Doctor still continues to fill with honour to himself and advantage to the proprietors.

On the death of the late Dr. Nares, which happened early in the year 1783, Dr. Arnold was appointed his successor as organist and composer to his Majesty's Chapel at St. James's, to which honourable office he was sworn in on March the 1st of the same year; and, at the grand performances of the Commemoration of Handel, at Westminster-Abbey, the first of which took place in 1784, the Doctor was appointed one of the sub-directors of that celebrity, and presented with a medal which his Majesty has permitted the sub-directors to wear at all times, as a mark of his approbation of their conduct on that great and magnificent occasion. In the year 1786, Dr. Arnold projected and entered upon the plan of publishing an uniform

form edition of the whole of Handel's works; and proceeded in this arduous undertaking to the hundred and eighteenth number, going through all his productions, except his Italian operas. He also, at the same time, published four volumes of cathedral music, forming a continuation of Dr. Boyce's great and well-known work. Three of the volumes are in score for the voices, and one for the organ.

In November, 1789, it was resolved, by the subscribers to the Academy of Antient Music, to place their performances more fully under the direction of some professional gentleman of eminence. On this occasion, Dr. Arnold, Dr. Cooke, and Dr. Dupuis, were severally nominated candidates, when Dr. Arnold was elected by a great majority, and invested with the entire direction and management of the orchestra, the authority of hiring of instruments, engaging performers, and of doing whatever else related to the concert; the committee pledging itself to indemnify the conductor for all expenses. The management of this respectable institution has, since that time, continued in the Doctor's hands, with the highest credit to himself, and the greatest satisfaction to the academicians and subscribers.

At the death of the late Dr. Cooke, which happened in the year 1793, the real merit and high reputation of Dr. Arnold recommended him to the notice of the ingenious and learned Dr. Horsley, bishop of Rochester and dean of Westminster.

minster. The bishop, casting his eye around for a meritorious object, naturally fixed on Dr. Arnold; and I have it from the Doctor himself, that his appointment was unsolicited, and performed on the part of the worthy prelate "in the handsomest manner possible."

In 1796, the Doctor was applied to, to succeed the late Dr. Philip Hayes as conductor of the annual performances at St. Paul's for the Feast of the Sons of the Clergy; in which situation he has well supported his high professional character.

Dr. Arnold has had five children, of which, two daughters and one son are now living. His eldest daughter was lately married to Mr. Rose, a gentleman engaged in mercantile business. The second is unmarried. Mr. Samuel Arnold inherits all that intellectual pre-eminence which has so long distinguished his father. He is the author of several musical dramas, most of which have been flatteringly received; and he has written an excellent novel, entitled "The Creole." But the circumstance the most worthy of remark is, the rapid and extraordinary progress he has made in the profession he has lately assumed. Scarcely a twelvemonth has elapsed since he commenced portrait-painter; and, in the last exhibition at Somerset-House, the public were presented with a portrait of Dr. Ayrton from his pencil. But at this the reader will be less surprised, when told, that that excellent artist, Mr. Beachey, on examining Mr.

Arnold's first effort* in this way, declared that he never before saw such a *first picture.*

It is a truth highly honourable to Dr. Arnold, that the exercise of his professional talents has never been entirely confined to the public amusement and his own private emolument. The prosperity of those numerous charities which distinguish this country, and reflect so much honour on their several founders, has engrossed much of his attention; and many a handsome collection has, in a great measure, been derived from his voluntary and gratuitous assistance. By the kindly aid of that science which some consider as trivial, or as an useless luxury, and only calculated to excite the looser passions, he has succoured the most philanthropic and noble institutions, and contributed to "feed the hungry and clothe the naked."

Every one, who has the pleasure of the Doctor's acquaintance, will acknowledge, that, independently of his professional excellencies, he possesses many qualities which claim the esteem of society. His genius and science have, from time to time, procured him a great number of friends; and his social and amiable disposition has always preserved them. His conversation is open, pleasant, and unaffected; his heart is framed to feel for the distresses of others; and his sincerity in friendship is universally known.

His works are voluminous, as will be seen by the following catalogue:

ORA-

ORATORIOS.

The Cure of Saul.
Abimelech.
The Resurrection.
The Prodigal Son.

ODES.

The Jesuit.
To the Haymakers.
On the Queen's Birth-Day.
Prince of Wales's Birth-Day.
To Music.
To Night.
To Humanity.
On Shakspeare.

SERENATAS.

Hercules and Omphale.
Apollo.
Theseus and Peleus.

OPERAS.

The Maid of the Mill.
Rosamond.
April-Day.
The Castle of Andalusia.
Lilliput.
The Son-in-Law.
The Weather-Cock.
Summer Amusement.
The Agreeable Surprise.
The Dead Alive.
Julius Cæsar.
The Silver Tankard.
True Blue.
The Spanish Barber.
The Blind Man.
Tom Jones.
The Prince of Arragon.
Two to One.
Turk and no Turk.
The Siege of Curzola.
Inkle and Yarico.
The Battle of Hexham.
Gretna-Green.
Fire and Water.
Hunt the Slipper.
The Wedding-Night.
The Baron.
The Female Dramatist.
The Garland.
Surrender of Calais.
The Mountaineers.
The Shipwreck.
Auld Robin Gray.
Apollo turned Stroller.
Who pays the Reckoning?
The Portrait.
Peeping Tom.
The Enraged Musician.
Arthur.
New Spain.
Throw Physic to the Dogs.
Children in the Wood.
Cambro-Britons.
Italian Monk.
False and True.
The Hovel.

BURLETTAS.

The Magnet. Don Quixote.
The Cure for Dotage.

Overtures, Concertos, Trios, Canzonets, Single Songs, Catches, Glees, and Lessons for the Harpsichord or Piano-Forte.

IN MANUSCRIPT.

Various Services and Anthems composed for public Charities, and for the immediate Use of his Majesty's Chapels.

ADMIRAL LORD BRIDPORT.

THIS veteran officer was the son of the late vicar of Thorncombe, in Devonshire, and the younger brother of Lord Hood, a memoir of whom appeared in our former volume. He received, we believe, his principal education under the immediate eye of his parent.

Lord Bridport entered early into the naval service; and, having only his own merit and diligence to trust to, in respect to his future prospects, his subsequent eminence forms the highest panegyric on his character.

On the 2d of December, 1746, he was made a lieutenant; and, on the 10th of June, 1756, was promoted to be post-captain of the Prince George, of 90 guns. In 1757, he was appointed to the Antelope, of 50 guns; and, being on a cruise in the month of May, on the coast of France, he fell in with the Aquilon, a French frigate, of 48 guns and

and 450 men. After a running fight of two hours, Captain Hood drove her on the rocks in Audierne-Bay, where she was totally lost. The enemy had thirty men killed, and thirteen wounded. The Antelope had three killed, and thirteen wounded.*

In 1758, Captain Hood served in the Mediterranean on board the St. George, of 90 guns, commanded by Rear-Admiral Saunders, part of the fleet under the command of Admiral Osborne. He was present on the 28th of February, when the French admiral Du Quesne, in attempting to reinforce De la Clue, was blocked up in the harbour of Carthagena. Captain Hood returned from the Mediterranean with Rear-Admiral Saunders, and arrived at Spithead on the 5th of July. Soon after his arrival, he was appointed to command the Minerva frigate, of 32 guns. During the greater part of 1759, he served under Commodore Duff, who was employed to block up the French transports in the Morbian. Captain Hood also captured the Ecureuil, a Bayonne privateer, of 14 guns and 122 men; but he did not obtain any fresh addition of laurels till the beginning of the year 1761. On the 23d of January of that year, cruizing near Cape Pinas, which bore S. by E. thirty leagues,

* During this action, a midshipman, of the name of Murray, had both his legs shot away. He was immediately carried down to the surgeon; but, whilst his wounds were dressing, hearing three cheers from the crew, and concluding the enemy's ship had struck, the ebbing spirit of his life instantly rallied; and, waving his hand in triumph, the gallant youth expired!

a large sail was discerned from the Minerva soon after day-break. Captain Hood immediately gave orders to chase. His antagonist was the Warwick, an old English ship, pierced for 60 guns, and mounting 34, commanded by M. Le Verger de Belair. Her crew amounted to about three hundred men, including a company of soldiers, which were destined to reinforce the garrison at Pondicherry. It was past ten before the Minerva came up with her; when Captain Hood, notwithstanding his inferiority, ran alongside, and began the engagement. The fire on both sides was terrible. " At eleven,* her main and fore-top mast went away, and soon after she came on board us on the starboard bow, and then fell alongside; but the sea soon parted us, when the enemy fell astern. About a quarter after eleven, the Minerva's bowsprit went away, and the fore-mast soon followed it: these were very unfortunate accidents, and I almost despaired of being able to attack the enemy again. However, I cut the wreck away as soon as possible; and, about one o'clock, cleared the ship of it, with the loss of one man and the sheet-anchor. I then wore the ship, and stood for the enemy, who was about three leagues to leeward of me. At four o'clock, I came up close to the enemy, and renewed the attack. About a quarter before five she struck; when I found she had fourteen killed, and thirty-two wounded. Our numbers

* Captain Hood's Letter to Government.

are,

are, the boatswain and thirteen killed, and the gunner and thirty-three wounded: the former and two seamen died on the 27th. I have given my thanks to the officers and crew of his Majesty's ship for their firm and spirited behaviour; and I have great pleasure in acquainting their lordships with it. At nine o'clock, the main-mast of the Minerva went away; at eleven, the mizen-mast followed it."

Captain Hood rose, by this gallant action, high in the estimation of his Sovereign and the public. It gave celebrity to his character, and placed his merit as an officer above the common level. He was, in consequence, appointed, in August, 1761, to command part of the squadron destined to convey the present queen to England. After the peace of Paris in 1763, he obtained a guard-ship at Portsmouth; and, in 1766, soon after the usual period of his command had elapsed, succeeded Sir Charles Saunders as the treasurer of Greenwich-Hospital.

On the prospect of hostilities with France, he sailed from St. Helen's on the 8th of June, 1778, in the Robust, of 74 guns, being part of the grand Channel fleet under the command of Admiral Keppel. On the 28th, they returned into port, with the French frigates Pallas and Licorne, which had been captured; and they sailed again on Friday, the 10th of July. The Brest fleet, consisting of thirty-two sail, five frigates, and five gondolas, had also in the interim put to sea. After some days

spent in manœuvring, the action between the two fleets commenced off Ushant on the 27th of July. The winds were constantly in the N. W. and S. W. sometimes blowing strong, and the French fleet, being always to windward, kept aloof. The French began their fire on the 27th upon the headmost of Vice-Admiral Harland's division; and the two fleets, being on different tacks, passed very near each other, engaging sharply along the whole line. Towards the close of day, the enemy formed their fleet again; a proceeding which Admiral Keppel did not prevent, as he conceived they meant handsomely to meet him the next morning. He was, however, disappointed in this expectation, as they took the advantage of the night, and, on the following morning, were out of sight. Captain Hood was stationed in the line, in the blue division, as second to its admiral, Sir Hugh Palliser. The Robust, on the morning of the 27th, had been ordered with other ships, by signal from the Victory, to chase to windward; and, during the subsequent action, she was rather severely handled by the enemy. A large shot went through the main-mast, two through the fore-mast, two struck the bowsprit, and one slightly wounded the mizen-mast. The main-topmast was shot in two or three places; the main-topsail-yard shot away; the fore-topgallant-mast shot in two; the mizen-yard received two shot, and besides she had received about fourteen shot under water, one of which, being a forty-eight pounder, rendered the situation of the

crew

crew dangerous; and it was eight o'clock in the evening before they could stop the leak. The sails of the Robust were much cut; most of the braces, bowlines, and running rigging, with many of the lower and topmast yards, and two of the starboard lower-deck ports, were shot away. Notwithstanding, however, that his ship was so much damaged, she was fought so judiciously, that only five men were killed and seventeen wounded. Captain Hood returned with the fleet to Spithead on the 28th of October, and did not go to sea again until he obtained an admiral's flag.

The subsequent trials of the two commanders, Lord Keppel and Sir Hugh Palliser, and the part taken by Sir Alexander Hood on the occasion, drew upon him much popular odium at the time. He was, however, on the 26th of September, 1780, appointed Rear-Admiral of the White; and having, in 1782, hoisted his flag on board the Queen, of 90 guns, he was appointed to command the second, or larboard, division of the centre squadron in the grand fleet, which was sent under the command of Lord Howe to relieve Gibraltar. On the 19th of October, Lord Howe, having effected the object of his voyage, took the advantage of a fair wind to re-pass the Streights. He was followed by the combined fleet of the enemy, consisting of forty-six sail of the line. The British fleet being formed to leeward to receive them, the enemy were left to take the distance at which they chose to engage. The French division commenced its

cannonade

cannonade about sun-set on the van and rear, the chief attack being on the latter, and the fire was soon commenced along the whole line, at a considerable distance, and with little effect. It was returned occasionally from the ships of the British fleet, as the nearer approach of the enemy afforded a favourable opportunity of making an impression upon them; but, as the British commander had no orders to risk a general engagement, he kept his course all night in full sail, and thus the fleets separated.

The year following, Rear-Admiral Hood was chosen member for the borough of Bridgewater, and, on the 7th of May, 1788, he was invested with the order of the Bath. At the time of the apprehended rupture with Spain, on the 12th of May, 1790, Admiral Hood's flag was hoisted on board the London, of 98 guns. On the 4th of July, he commanded the van division of Admiral Barrington's fleet in Torbay, with his flag on board the Victory, of 100 guns.

On the 1st of February, 1793, Sir Alexander Hood was promoted to be vice-admiral of the red. During this year, his flag continued on board the Royal George, with a command under Earl Howe in the Channel fleet. On the famous 1st of June, and on the preceding days, his ship was particularly distinguished. She commenced the action on the 29th of May, and, during that on the 1st of June, was exposed to an incessant cannonade. Sir Alexander, during the whole of this action, displayed in many instances his great skill and intrepidity.

trepidity. The foremast, with the fore and main-top mast, of the Royal George, were shot away, and she had twenty men killed, and seventy-two wounded. On his return, he was presented with the gold chain and medal, with the other flag-officers and captains of the victorious fleet, and was afterwards created Baron Bridport.

His lordship acquired fresh laurels, off L'Orient, in June, 1795, in an engagement between the fleet he commanded and a fleet of the enemy. By a masterly manœuvre, he took, in this affair, three line-of-battle ships.

On the 31st of May, 1796, Lord Bridport was made a peer of Great Britain; and, since the late Lord Howe finally resigned the command of the Channel fleet, in 1797, the subject of this memoir has continued to hold it with great credit to himself and his country.

His first wife was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. West, and niece to the late Lord Viscount Cobham. By this marriage he became related to the Pitt and Lyttleton families. His lady dying in September, 1782, he was again married, on the 26th of June, 1788, to Miss Bray, only daughter of the late Thomas Bray, Esq. of Edmonton.

Lord Bridport first learnt the principles of our naval service under the Admirals Smith and Saunders. Those persons, who have served under his command, speak of him as their father, rather than as their superior officer. His name will certainly

pass

pass down to posterity among the Howes, the Rodneys, the Ansons, the Russells, the Blakes, the Duncans, and the illustrious list of other naval heroes, who have contributed to raise their country to its present height of distinction and glory.

K.

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWN.

THE biography of an eminent statesman must necessarily be peculiarly interesting. It must in a great degree be the history of the times in which he flourished. It must record the events which owe their birth to his counsels or his authority. But it very rarely happens, as in the present instance, that those men, whom nature has qualified for high and dignified stations, exhibit in their personal character the pure and amiable affections, which, while they embellish their private lives, administer health and consistency to their public virtues.

The Marquis of Lansdown, the most considerable and enlightened statesman of his age, is descended in the male line from the house of Fitzgerald. Thomas Fitzmaurice, first Earl of Kerry, the offspring of a junior branch of the Leinster family, married Anne, daughter of the celebrated Sir William Petty, Knt. professor of anatomy

tomy in the university of Oxford, and who was one of the founders and first fellows of the Royal Society.*

John Fitzmaurice, the second son by this marriage, and the father of the present Marquis of Lansdown, was created EARL of SHELBURNE, Viscount Fitzmaurice, and Baron Dunkerton, in Ireland, and Baron Wycombe, in Great Britain, by his late Majesty George the Second, in 1753. The subject of these pages was created MARQUIS of LANSDOWN on the 30th of November, 1782. He bore a commission in the Guards early in life; and, during the seven-years war, served in Ger-

* Sir *William Petty*, the son of Anthony Petty, a clothier at Rumsey, in Hampshire, was educated at the grammar-school there, and went to Paris to study anatomy. In 1647, he obtained a patent from the parliament, for seventeen years, to teach the *art of double writing*. In 1648, he acted as deputy to Dr. Clayton, professor of anatomy at Oxford, obtained the degree of Doctor of Physic, and was, in 1651, elected professor of anatomy. He soon after went to Ireland as physician to the army; and, in 1654, entered into a contract for regulating the admeasurement of forfeited lands, by which he gained a considerable sum. He was also appointed clerk of the council in that kingdom. He improved his fortune very much by the purchase of soldiers' debentures, was knighted by Charles the Second in 1661, and was one of the first members of the Royal Society. He invented, soon after, a double-bottomed ship, which was tried and approved. It appears, from his last will, that he estimated his real estate at 6,500*l.* per annum; his personal estate at about 45,000*l.* and the improvements of his Irish property at 4,000*l.* per annum. He left, in all, to the amount of 15,000*l.* a year. — A prodigious fortune acquired from so small a beginning!

many

many as a volunteer under the present Duke of Brunswick.*

His lordship was born in the same year as his present Majesty, and succeeded to his father's title in May, 1761. He was afterwards appointed aid-de-camp to the King, and his military has since kept pace with his political rank: in 1763, we find him raised to be a major-general; in 1772, a lieutenant-general; and, in 1783, he became a general in the British army.

It was probably owing to the early acquaintance he had cultivated with the late Earl of Chatham, that he became attached to the party of that great statesman; an attachment no less creditable to their talents and integrity, than useful and honourable to their country. He was sworn first Lord of Trade and a Privy-Counsellor on the 16th of April, 1763, the day on which Lord Bute's administration gave way to that of Mr. George Grenville.

On the 30th of July, 1766, he was appointed, in Mr. Pitt's administration, one of his Majesty's principal secretaries of state, upon the resignation of the Duke of Richmond. He immediately took an efficient part in the administration, at that time denominated Lord Chatham's Ministry, the ostensible head of which was the present Duke of

* At the battle of Campen, and on other occasions, his lordship has evinced great personal courage. This quality afterwards served him when, in 1781, he was constrained to fight a duel with Colonel Fullerton, for words spoken in his place in parliament.

Grafton.

Grafton. The Earl of Chatham, however, who held the office of Lord Privy-Seal, was known to be the actual director of its counsels. During this period, the late venerable and respected Camden held the great seal, the first Earl of Northington was president of the privy-council, and the Marquis of Granby had the command of the army. The executive power was never wielded by men who possessed more ability and independence; but they had to encounter the extensive influence of the Rockingham party whom they had displaced. That party had acquired popularity from the repeal of the Stamp-Act and the restoration of harmony and confidence to America; they had avowed themselves the determined enemies of favouritism and secret influence, at that time held in universal dread and detestation; and, as it was notorious that Lord Bute, who had retired from power in 1763, still preserved his influence over the party who succeeded him under Mr. George Grenville, the nation was naturally disposed to suspect that the new administration was subject to the same control. The event justified these fears; for, notwithstanding the professed independence of the ministry, and their aversion to the schemes and measures of what was denominated the Scotch faction, yet such was their want of coherence and union in parliament, that they found themselves equally unable to resist the intrigues of favouritism in the cabinet, and the influence of the

the Rockingham party in the House of Commons.

Could these two great parties, headed by the Marquis of Rockingham and the Earl of Chatham, have been persuaded to form a vigorous and well-cemented combination against the increasing influence which they both dreaded, the dangerous faction could never have prevailed. But, though no expedient for this purpose was left untried by the friends of both, and by all the best patriots in the country, their efforts were unfortunately ineffectual. Had this union been accomplished, we should not, probably, at this day, have to lament the separation of America. The right assumed by the British parliament to tax the colonies was never admitted either by the Marquis of Rockingham or the Earl of Chatham, but was most strenuously denied and resisted by them, from the origin to the termination of the subsequent contest. The dispute with America would therefore never have originated with men, who held in superstitious reverence wise and liberal maxims of policy, which were grossly violated by the absurd and unjust attempt to tax the colonies.

As no means could be devised to unite these popular leaders, the new administration had but a short existence. The Earl of Chatham was the first who resigned, avowing, as his reason, in the House of Lords, that " his measures were counteracted by a *secret influence* behind the throne, more

more powerful than majesty itself." Lord Shelburne soon followed, having been thwarted in his design to relieve the Corsicans, who were then making brave and laudable exertions under Paoli, their leader, for the restoration of their liberties. The Duke of Grafton and the Marquis of Granby were the only patriotic members of the cabinet who retained their places, a circumstance which exposed them to the severe animadversions and invectives of Junius.

From this period, till the year 1782, we find the Earl of Shelburne in honourable opposition to all the measures of government, preserving a consistency and uniformity of principle, highly creditable to his political character. From 1770 to 1782 was certainly the most brilliant period of his public life. Among the measures of great public importance which he reprobated was, the decision of the House of Commons upon the legal and constitutional return of Mr. Wilkes to represent the county of Middlesex in parliament.* He opposed the power asserted by the two Houses, in the case of the printers, to punish by fine and imprisonment in cases where they themselves were accusers, judge, and jury, without a trial in the regular course of law, by a jury of their peers. He exposed the folly and wickedness of the Ame-

* He also adopted a spirited line of conduct, in 1770, on the introduction of a bill for the repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, and, on its loss, he protested with the Dukes of Portland, Richmond, and other lords.

rican war through every stage of its progress. He resisted the increasing influence of the crown, and the enormous additions to the public debt. He suggested an inquiry into the public expenditure, proposed an abolition of useless places and of unnecessary expenses in various departments of the state, and brought forward various motions which tended to establish a more rigid system of public economy. During this period, no question of importance was agitated in parliament in which the Earl of Shelburne did not take a leading part, and always on the patriotic or popular side.

The death of the Earl of Chatham placed him at the head of his political connection, which, indeed, prior to that event, had begun to be distinguished by the denomination of *the Shelburne party*, and already united, among other eminent personages, the Duke of Grafton, Earl Camden, Mr. Dunning, Colonel Barré, and Mr. Alderman Townsend; inconsiderable in point of numbers, but pre-eminent in talents, eloquence, and popularity. In 1780, this party was reinforced by the yet untried powers of the present minister, who, to the hereditary influence of a great name, joined the promise he had always given of extraordinary talents.

On the overthrow of Lord North, in 1782, the long-desired union of the Rockingham and Shelburne parties actually took place; and an administration was formed which united the patriotism, virtue, and ability, of these two powerful interests.

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The Marquis of Rockingham was placed at the head of the Treasury, and Lord John Cavendish of the Exchequer; Mr. Fox, appointed secretary of state, was the efficient minister; Lord Keppel was placed at the head of the Admiralty; the Duke of Richmond at that of the Ordnance; and General Conway had the command of the army; the Earl of Shelburne accepted the management of the foreign department, for which he was certainly the best qualified of any person in Europe; Earl Camden was made president of the council; the Duke of Grafton, privy-seal; Mr. Dunning was created Lord Ashburton, and appointed chancellor of the Dutchy Court of Lancaster; and Lord Thurlow was permitted to retain the Great Seal, which he had obtained during the former administration. The Rockingham party had a majority of voices, the first six members having acted in close unison during the time they had been in opposition. Mr. Burke, Colonel Barré, and the rest of the leading characters in the two Houses of Parliament, filled the secondary offices. If ever there was a party of political men, which derived its strength from the feelings and support of the country at large, it was this administration. Ambassadors or pacific intimations were immediately dispatched to the various European courts. The Duke of Portland and General Fitzpatrick were sent with powers to tranquillize Ireland. Useless places, the salaries of which amounted to upwards of seventy thousand pounds a year, were

 abolished.

abolished. Persons holding offices under government were deprived, by act of parliament, of the right of voting or interfering in elections. Contractors were rendered ineligible to sit or vote in the House of Commons. Projects of parliamentary reform were framed with the best omens of success, and an inquiry instituted into the state of the representation of the people.—All this was done in the short space of three months!

The most fatal calamity that could fall upon the country at such a moment blasted these fair and promising expectations. The death of the Marquis of Rockingham dissolved the union on which the people had placed their unbounded confidence, and the current of reformation was instantly stopped. Disappointed that the Duke of Portland was not placed at the head of the Treasury, Mr. Fox, Lord Keppel, and Lord John Cavendish, immediately resigned their situations, and were followed by Mr. Burke and all the principal leaders of that party in both Houses of Parliament. The Earl of Shelburne was placed by the King, whose confidence he had particularly secured, at the head of the Treasury, in the room of the Marquis of Rockingham; Mr. William Pitt succeeded Lord John Cavendish as chancellor of the Exchequer; Lord Howe was placed at the head of the Admiralty in the room of Lord Keppel; and Lord Grantham and Lord Sydney were appointed secretaries of state.

The

The new administration were unjustly accused of an intention of continuing the American war, on the ground that they were willing to grant every thing the Americans demanded, short of independence, without the full and unconditional acknowledgement of which, it was well known, peace could not be obtained. The acknowledgement of it on the part of Great Britain was, therefore, nothing more than admitting in words what was possessed in fact, and about which it would have been the very consummation of national folly to have wasted more blood and treasure. However, this imputation was soon done away by a peace with all the powers with whom we were at war, and by the acknowledgement of American independence, which preceded the signing of the preliminary articles.

It was farther objected against the administration, that it was not sincere in pursuing its plan of parliamentary reform and the proposed retrenchments of the public expenditure. But, when it is recollected that the latter measure was first introduced into the House of Commons by Colonel Barré, the confidential friend of the new minister, who represented one of his lordship's boroughs, and that it was supported in the Upper House by Lord Shelburne himself, credit must be given him for the honourable intentions on that important subject. With respect to the part he took in the reform of the representation, he had not, like the Duke of Richmond and Mr. Pitt, given a solemn

 pledge

pledge, to the public, by placing himself at the head of any of the reforming societies; nor did he originally propose the measure to either House of Parliament. He has, however, always professed his conviction of the necessity of that reform, and his most intimate friends have been the foremost on all occasions to promote its success.

The period of Lord Shelburne's administration, which was only nine months, including the prorogation of parliament, allowed him no time to effect more than he actually did accomplish.

The unnatural and disgraceful coalition which took place at this time between the Rockingham party and those who had held the reins of government, from the resignation of Lord Chatham's administration to the year 1782, under Lord North, forming a considerable majority of the members of both Houses of Parliament, the Earl of Shelburne and his newly-formed ministry were compelled to resign in December, 1783.* Mr. Fox, Lord John Cavendish, and Lord Keppel, now resumed their former places; the Duke of Portland was placed at the head of the Treasury; General Conway at that of the army; Lord North was made secretary of state; Lord Stormont, president of the council; Lord Carlisle,

* The Earl of Shelburne submitted to the decision of the House of Commons, which had passed a vote of disapprobation on the treaty of peace, and resigned his place to his opponents. It is said, however, that a little relaxation in his principles and opinions would have enabled him to preserve his majority; but he chose to resign rather than compromise his honour and his feelings.

privy-

privy-seal; and Lord Loughborough was put at the head of a commission for holding the Great Seal.

The Earl of Shelburne now became the head of a new opposition which united his own immediate connections with a few of the Rockingham party, not included in the coalition, and the whole of that description of politicians, who are distinguished by the appellation of *the King's friends*.

To secure a majority in both Houses, the coalition neither courted popularity nor paid great deference to the feelings of the court. A bill was brought into parliament for vesting the management of the whole concerns of the East-India Company, and the government of India, in seven commissioners and nine sub-commissioners, to be elected periodically by the House of Commons. This measure, it was easily perceived, would take the whole patronage of India out of the hands of the crown, and deprive the Company itself of the management of its own concerns, while it tended to throw such a weight of influence into the scale of the existing ministry, as would enable their majority to appoint the East-India commissioners, and the East-India commissioners, in return, to elect the majority of the House of Commons! The crown and the people felt, therefore, an equal interest in opposing this bill; and, while it was pending in the House of Lords, after having passed the House of Commons, his Majesty suddenly dismissed his ministers!

At this eventful period, the whole country looked up to the Marquis of Lansdown, expecting that he would re-assume the reins of Government; but, when the new administration was announced, no inconsiderable degree of surprise was occasioned in the nation, to find that Mr. William Pitt, who had been chancellor of the Exchequer during the administration of his lordship, and who was then only in the four-and-twentieth year of his age, was appointed first lord of the Treasury as well as chancellor of the Exchequer; and that the Earl of Shelburne, who took the lead in the opposition to the coalition-administration, was entirely excluded from the new arrangements!

This circumstance has been attributed to his having declined the responsibility of an administration formed in opposition to the sense of that part of the House of Commons which still adhered to the dismissed party; a difficulty which could only be surmounted by a dissolution of parliament: others, however, attribute his being passed over to some juvenile intrigues of Mr. Pitt.

His lordship is said to have called the new ministry a *rope of sand*; and having, moreover, a very slender opinion of their talents, he did not choose to risk his own great popularity by a connection with them. The coalition which formed it was also, in many respects, as monstrous as that, headed by Messrs. Fox and North, which had just been driven from power. His lordship continued, however, for some years on good terms with the new ministry,

ministry, and, besides receiving for himself the titles of Marquis of Lansdown and Earl of Wycombe, he obtained a well-earned provision for Colonel Barré and some other of his friends.

The MARQUIS of LANSDOWN now retired to the enjoyments of private life at his country-mansion in the style of a country-gentleman. The commencement of the present war, and the important events of the French revolution, first drew him from his retreat. Of this unfortunate contest, he has uniformly denied the justice and the necessity, in its origin as well as in every stage of its progress. He has, in consequence, acted for several years in decisive hostility to the ministry and their measures; and, though he still keeps aloof from the party of Mr. Fox, yet their political opinions and sympathies appear to coincide.

As a statesman, the Marquis of Lansdown is universally acknowledged to possess first-rate qualities. As a senator, he is the most interesting and fascinating speaker in the Upper House, and is second to no one in the force of his arguments and in the poignancy of his satire; and, above all, for the deep information with which his speeches abound. Though in the sixty-first year of his age, he retains all the energy, the wit, and the acuteness of penetration,* which have so eminently distinguished

* In person, he has often been admired for the dignity of his deportment and the intelligence of his countenance. Many persons

tinguished him through the whole of his brilliant and honourable career.

In domestic life, his lordship's favourite pursuits have always been architecture and the magnificent embellishment of his houses. His palace in Berkeley-Square is esteemed the most elegant and sumptuous in Great Britain. All the cielings are painted by Cypriani, and the collection of paintings and other decorations are by the greatest masters. The furniture alone is estimated to be worth one hundred thousand pounds; and, such is the fondness of the owner for this kind of excellence, that artists of various descriptions are always employed about the premises in making additions and improvements.

His library is a *chef-d'œuvre.* It is one hundred and ten feet in length, and ornamented with the most valuable Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman statues. The cieling is painted by Cypriani from the antiquities found in Herculaneum. The collection of books is worthy of this magnificent apartment and honourable to the taste of the owner. It consists of about ten thousand volumes of the most valuable books, in all languages, which are arranged in a classical and scientific manner. It

sons have conceived that a strong general likeness existed between him and the unfortunate Louis the Sixteenth; there is, doubtless, more expression and force in the features of the Marquis. He has, for many years, been a martyr to repeated attacks of the gout; but these have not diminished his flow of spirits and his attachment to books and the arts.

is most complete, and perhaps *unique* in the extent of its political collection, and as containing every work which has been published in France and England on the subject of the French revolution.

His lordship's first wife was the daughter of the late Earl Granville, by whom he has only one son living, viz. the present Earl of Wycombe, a patriotic member of parliament for the borough of High Wycombe. His second lady was Lady Louisa Fitzpatrick, sister to the present Earl of Ossory and the Dowager Lady Holland, mother to the present Lord Holland, by whom he has another son, Lord John Henry Petty, now in the 19th year of his age.

This distinguished nobleman possesses the immense fortune accumulated by his great-grandfather, and he has always expended it with princely liberality.* He is a most generous patron of the arts and literature, and many instances might easily be enumerated of his bounties to deserving and distressed men of letters. Few characters in the political walks of life have sustained that consistency of conduct and principle which has marked the life of this illustrious personage; but, as it is the fate of all great men to have powerful rivals and enemies, he has not been exempted from his share of their impotent reproach. His

* His rent-roll is said formerly to have been £35,000 per annum.

patriotic

patriotic conduct during the American war; his necessary peace of 1783; his subsequent submission to a decision of the House of Commons; his manly opposition to a war which has threatened the very existence of the country; his able speeches in parliament, during a period of thirty-eight years; and his munificence in his own elegant pursuits; will become his faithful eulogium when the senseless turbulency and calumny of parties are forgotten.

A. D.

SIR JOHN PARNELL,

EX-CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER IN IRELAND.

THIS gentleman, whose late dismission from office has been the subject of conversation in the parliaments of Great Britain and Ireland, is the grandson of the late Dean Parnell, author of the Hermit, &c. whose memory is also perpetuated by an excellent Parian marble busto placed in the library of Trinity-College, Dublin.

The honour of a baronetage was conferred upon this gentleman's father by his present Majesty November 3d, 1766: the title descended to Sir John about the year 1783. Soon after this gentleman attained the age of manhood, he was returned to serve in the Irish parliament for Queen's county,

for

for which county he still continues to be one of the sitting members.

In the late Earl of Northington's administration, Sir John Parnell was appointed one of the commissioners of Customs and Excise; and, as such offices do not exclude gentlemen from the parliament of the sister-kingdom, Sir John continued to give his assistance to the administration in the Irish senate.

For a series of years a great intimacy has existed between Sir John and Mr. Foster, speaker of the Irish House of Commons, whom he is known to have consulted upon every question of great national concern, and to whose exertions he is not a little indebted for his appointment, as that gentleman's successor, in the important office of chancellor of the Exchequer, in the year 1786, under the administration of the late Duke of Rutland.

Sir John continued in the industrious discharge of the duties of this station for ten years, under the successive administrations of the Duke of Rutland, Marquis of Buckingham, and Earl Westmorland, with unshaken steadiness. Upon the arrival of Earl Fitzwilliam, in 1795, he appeared to totter in his office; he, however, despised a stubborn consistency, and cheerfully co-operated with Mr. Grattan and the other members of the Opposition, who then came into power. He thus secured his continuance in office during the short-lived administration of that illustrious nobleman, and also during that of Earl Camden, and part of that of the

Marquis

Marquis Cornwallis; by whom he has, however, been recently dismissed.

This gentleman is an instance that perseverance and industry, without brilliancy of talents, will enable persons to rise to the highest offices of the state. There is nothing of superior talent apparent in Sir John Parnell. He certainly possesses a large portion of sound sense, but he is a slow heavy man, with an ungraceful action and an inharmonious loud voice, which, in the senate, frequently rises to discord and harshness. He is quite destitute of brilliant or persuasive eloquence; but, being the official organ, aided by a steady majority, his measures and proposals required but a few prefatory observations, and they were never endangered by the influence of the talents of Opposition.

When the important question of an incorporating legislative union between Great Britain and Ireland was introduced into the Irish parliament, Sir John Parnell was disinterestedly against the adoption, or even introduction, of the measure. The result was, that he was dismissed from his office by the Marquis Cornwallis, and a successor appointed in the person of Mr. Corry.

He is now nearly fifty years of age, is married, and has several children; his principal country-residence is at Bathleague, near Maryborough, in Queen's county. Upon the death of a near relation, in the year 1796, he succeeded to one of the most beautiful and highly-cultivated estates in Ireland, called Avon-Dale, in the county of Wicklow,

low, for many years possessed by that amiable and much-valued character, the late Samuel Hayes, Esq. who, dying without issue, bequeathed this small estate, for many years the constant care, delight, and pride of his life, to his worthy relation, the present Sir John Parnell.

W. Y.

MR. ROBERT SOUTHEY,

THE subject of the present memoir, though a very young person, and of a retired disposition, is justly entitled to a place among the public characters of this country, being well known as a man of letters, but more particularly as a poet. His largest poem, Joan of Arc, was written by him at an earlier period than Lucan wrote his Pharsalia. Like the Roman poet, too, the author is a strenuous assertor of liberty.

Mr. Robert Southey was born at Bristol, August the 12th, 1774. His father was a linen-draper in that town, a man who had been so accustomed to regulate his motions by the neighbouring-clock, that the clock might at length (so punctual were his movements) have been regulated by him. He was, also, extremely fond of the country and its employments.

The spirit of the father rested on the son; for, the father's favourite instructions to all around him were,

were, to tie the stockings up tight, and to be punctual. Robert, to this day, is said to tie up his stockings very tight, even unwholesomely, and in engagements is punctual to a minute. His poetry, too, is very conversant in rural objects. The father, though a worthy man, was unfortunate, and died of a broken heart in consequence of embarrassments.

At six years of age, young Southey went to the school kept by Mr. Foot, at Bristol, and which is now ably managed by Mr. Estlin, and one of the most respectable dissenting academies in this country. At the death of Mr. Foot, he was removed to Carston, near Bath. He left Carston when he was eight years of age. The re-visiting of this place gave birth to some of those feelings expressed in that pleasing poem, entitled the *Retrospect*, published in a volume, printed in 1795, the joint production of our author and his friend Robert Lovel.

Southey continued at a day-school in Bristol till he was thirteen years of age, and wrote rhymes when he was but ten. He was also taught by his aunt to relish Shakespeare and Beaumont and Fletcher. For one year he was under a clergyman who taught a select number of pupils for a few hours in the morning. At fourteen, he was removed to Westminster-School.

At this school he continued, in the practice of the public schools, to write bad Latin verses; his English verses were more decent, and indicated, that the author might, in future life, reach excellence.

lence. He continued to abide by his father's rules for punctuality, and is said never to have undergone any corporal punishment; he, however, it seems, possessed sympathies with such as did, and wrote some essays in a periodical paper entitled the Flagellant.

Robert was entered at Baliol-College, Oxford, in November, 1792. His turn of mind was serious, his affections ardent, and he became a republican. He, to this day, is proud of being thought a republican, and not without reason. For, (contrary to the opinion of some,) politics, the most important of morals, is in a high degree favourable to poetic genius; and some of the best poets have been the most enlightened advocates of freedom. The book that most influenced his judgement was Mr. Godwin's Political Justice. In the summer of this year, he became acquainted with Mr. Coleridge, a student at that time of Jesus' College, Cambridge, and who was then on a visit to a friend at Oxford. Coleridge, no less than Southey, possessed a strong passion for poetry. They commenced, like two young poets, an enthusiastic friendship, and, in connection with others, struck out a plan for settling in America, and for having all things in common. This scheme they called Pantisocracy, of which, however visionary it may be thought by some, Southey still approves the theory.

Southey first became acquainted with Lovel in 1793. The three young poetical friends, Lovel, Southey,

Southey, and Coleridge, married three sisters. Southey is attached to domestic life, and, fortunately, was very happy in his matrimonial connection. He married in November, 1795, just before he left England to accompany his uncle to Spain and Portugal. He continued abroad six months.

Of his religious sentiments we shall say but little. Poets are often the children of fancy rather than of reason; and, whether they are Deists, Socinians, or Calvinists, correct inquirers will not regulate their judgements by the writings of poets. It seems, however, Southey was once a Deist; then he became a Socinian; though several sentiments contained in the Joan of Arc are scarcely reconcilable with the belief of a Socinian. Whatever his religious persuasions, however, may be, he is tolerant in principle, and destitute of bigotry; he shuns close argument, and professes to know little of metaphysics. Whatever his opinions may be for the time, he never conceals them, and is cautious that other people should not mistake them.

All his intellectual endowments he professes to owe to his mother's uncle, chaplain to the factory at Lisbon, a man of a most excellent character, of whom Mr. Southey always speaks with that sense of gratitude, which argues a good heart. It was with this gentleman that Mr. Southey travelled into Spain and Portugal.

He is now member of Gray's Inn, though he principally resides in the country; and is at present

sent engaged in writing an epic poem, entitled Madoc, which he intends to keep under correction for several years.

It is in the closet where we should contemplate such a character as Robert Southey. We must not look for great variety of incidents in the history of a young man, now only twenty-five years of age, immersed in reading, and impassionately attached to poetry. We will then close with a short account of his writings.

In the year 1795, he published his first volume of poems, in connection with his friend Robert Lovel, the former assuming the name of Moschus, the latter of Bion. Without noticing any particular blemishes that maturer judgement would have corrected, some of which, in subsequent volumes, are now corrected, it may be proper, in general, to say, that the sonnets to Ariste are pretty; and the Retrospect and Ode to Romance have considerable merit. On reading the poems of Robert Lovel, the admirers of poetry will lament his early death; for, unquestionably, he had a poetical mind. His sonnets to Happiness and Fame are particularly excellent.

In the year 1796, Mr. Southey published his Joan of Arc, an epic poem, in ten books. It would be improper to inquire into its particular beauties and defects here. If examined by the rules laid down by Aristotle for the epic, it will be found defective. But, it might be asked, are Aris-

totle's the invariable rules for the epic? Are they to be the eternal law? And has no other poet ventured to go against them? These are questions not to be urged here. Without pretending to fix the character of Joan of Arc by the ordinary rules of the epic, without inquiring into the truth of the theology, the justice of the representations, and the like, we consider the Joan of Arc to possess great beauties that cannot fail to please all the lovers of poetry; and, provided they do not forget they are reading the writings of a mere poet, (for, the poet always claimed the power of raising spirits, conjuring up visions, or making gods and goddesses, and even devils, at his pleasure,) they may justly be delighted with the simplicity and richness of the descriptions, the harmony of the numbers, the amiable spirit of benevolence, and the love of liberty, so prominent in Joan of Arc.

This poem (surprising as it may be thought) was written, Mr. Southey tells us in his preface, in six weeks. Whatever, therefore, its faults may be, (though haste, simply considered, is never allowed by strict criticism to be an apology for negligence,) yet when it is recollected, that it was the almost-extemporaneous production of a young man, writing for bread, great allowances will be made; though, indeed, before it was brought into its present shape, it underwent more than ordinary correction, and was twice written over again. The verse is heroic or Iambic verse, of ten syllables, without

without rhyme, called by us blank verse, and is, generally speaking, excellent of its kind. The second edition makes two elegant volumes.

The next volume of poems, published by Southey, contains the productions of very distant periods. They possess different degrees of merit; for, where a person writes with that uncommon rapidity with which Mr. Southey composes, he will not always write like himself. The Triumph of Woman is a fine poem. The sonnets on the Slave-Trade breathe much benevolence, and do the author great honour. The lyric poems, though possessed of a good deal of the fire of poetry, are yet defective in many of those qualities required of that most polished and useful, though difficult, species of poetry, by which Mr. Southey has thought proper to denominate them, Lyric. Some of them should rather have been called *copies* of verses, a name commonly given to little pieces written on the spur of the moment, and reducible to no distinct class. — MARY is a very affecting narrative, and justly admired.

In the year 1799, he published another volume of poems with this motto:

> The better please, the worse displease, I ask no more.
>
> SPENSER.

These are, for the most part, of the story or ballad kind, and imitative of the style of the old English ballads. Of this number are, the Complaints of the Poor, the Cross-Roads, the Sailor who had served in the Slave-Trade, &c. This volume also contains

contains the Visions of the Maid of Orleans, in three Books, which composed the ninth book of the first edition of Joan of Arc, and formed what Mr. Southey called the original sin of the poem. Considered as mere poetry, these three books possess many beauties.

Another volume of poems has just made its appearance, entitled THE ANNUAL ANTHOLOGY, of which Mr. Southey wrote a great part. It is a miscellaneous composition, though entirely poetical, and written by different authors. The other contributors are, Mr. Taylor, of Norwich, Mr. Charles Lloyd, Mrs. Opie, Mr. George Dyer, Mr. Joseph Cottle, Mr. Charles Lamb, the late Mr. Robert Lovel, Mr. A. S. Cottle, Mr. Humphrey Davy, and Dr. Beddoes.

This volume is entirely original, with the exception of some pieces that made their appearance in the Morning Post; and, being composed by persons of different tastes, must of course possess considerable variety. Every reader, therefore, who has a relish for poetry, may expect to find something suited to his taste in the Annual Anthology; for, it unquestionably contains many excellent compositions.

It remains, just to say a word of the only prose work written by Mr. Southey, which comprehends his travels, entitled Letters written during a short Residence in Spain and Portugal. This work has been well received, and a second edition has been published not long since.

The

The most curious part of this work relates to the Spanish and Portuguese poetry. In all countries, as Mr. Southey properly observes, "the era of genius has preceded that of taste; and taste has not yet been reached by the Spanish and Portuguese poets." Genius they have undoubtedly possessed, as may be seen in the La Hermosura de Angelica, an heroic poem, by Lope Felix de Vega Carpio, of which Mr. Southey has given a fair and large specimen; and the Lusiad, of which we have an English translation, by Mr. Mickle. The Diana of George of Mountemayer, from the beautiful specimen given by Mr. Southey, proves the author to have been a man of an elegant fancy. But the characters of the Spaniards and Portuguese are strongly marked by extravagance and superstition, and so is their poetry. Yet, all things considered, more particularly the terrors of their government, and the gloominess of their religion, we are rather surprised that the Spaniards and Portuguese should have done so much, even in poetry, than that they have not done more. And their poetical compositions, amidst much futility and extravagance, contain many things that the curious will like to peruse, and which the ingenious cannot fail to admire. The second edition of Mr. Southey's letters is unaccompanied with his translations of Spanish and Portuguese poetry. These, we are happy to hear, are to form a distinct volume; and, when enlarged and adorned by

by Mr. Southey's remarks, cannot fail of being favourably received by the public.

E. R.

DOCTOR PATRICK DUIGENAN.

THIS gentleman is a most interesting subject to the speculative and philosophic reader. His mind is not so much of a novel, as of an obsolete, cast; for, from some strange combination of circumstances, some odd admixture of ingredients in his temperature, he seems capable of feeling no sentiment, of uttering no thought, but those which would have befitted a monkish polemic of three centuries back. His very language and look partake of this complexion of mind; and one might know, either from his diction or his face, that he was designed for some of those ages which are gone by, where the religious zealot evinced the purity of his faith by the foulness of his language, and displayed the Christian charity of his heart by intolerance and persecution.

Of the family from which Dr. Patrick Duigenan descended nothing is generally known; but, from the very sound of the name, it is obvious it must have been perfectly Irish; nor would it be rash to infer, that it must have been Catholic as well as Irish. For, though there are considerable numbers of that name in the country, yet not in one instance

instance of one hundred is it found to designate a protestant or a sectary. It is among the felicities of the Doctor, therefore, that his talents and his virtues are not obscured by the splendour of ancestry, and that his strong attachment to the established church and Protestant ascendency cannot be attributed to early prejudice.

Dr. Duigenan was educated in the University of Dublin, in which he is said originally to have entered a sizer.—His industry was successively rewarded with a scholarship and fellowship; but whether it was that he did not at that time feel the same affection for the church which he has since manifested, or that he had a stronger predilection for a life of contest than of peace, he obtained leave to study law rather than take orders. He continued one of the two lay-fellows who alone are permitted in Dublin-College by its statutes, until Mr. Hely Hutchinson was appointed provost. On the accession of that gentleman to the government of the university, Dr. Duigenan conceived for him the most invincible antipathy; it appeared in every act, and pervaded the whole tenor of his conduct. Whatever might have been the demerits of Mr. Hutchinson, he had at least the praise of being a gentleman highly polished, of an elegant mind, and considerable acquirements in polite literature. These qualities, however, were not fitted to mitigate the fierce dislike which the Doctor had conceived of his new head, and he accordingly preferred quitting the college on the first opportunity, to paying

ing an unwilling obedience to the man he hated. The Doctor, however, did not recede in silence from his antagonist; he published a tract entitled *Lachrymæ Academicæ*, in which he attacked the provost with the most violent invective, and he sought, and it is said obtained, an opportunity of giving him the grossest personal insult. The provost passed over both with great composure, and the anger of his enemy expired from want of fire to feed it.

After Dr. Duigenan's retirement from college, he retained his place of lecturer in civil law, and some time afterward was appointed an ecclesiastical judge. His adherence to the old high-church principles finally procured him a seat in parliament, when the increasing liberality of public feeling made it likely that those principles might need an advocate to support them. Sent to the senate by clerical influence, Dr. Duigenan has never forgotten what he owes to his patrons, nor has he at any time omitted an occasion of inculcating, on the House and on the public, the virtues, the poverty, and the loyalty of the clergy, or of holding out popery and sectaries as the enemies of God and of religion, of moral duty and of good government. It is not only against papists and sectaries, as such, that the caustic eloquence of Dr. Duigenan is directed; the Irish as distinguished from the British settler, and their descendants in Ireland, are equally, at times, the smarting victims of his tongue; even a name sounding like that of an Irishman, or an Irish Catholic, furnishes a theme for the parliamentary invective

vective of the learned Doctor. The unfortunate name of *Keogh*, which belonged to a man sometime active in the cause of emancipation and reform, has more than once been pronounced by Dr. Patrick Duigenan in a manner and a tone, which, while it entertained a senate, spoke his contempt and scorn for Irish gutturals.

It would be doing great injustice to this learned gentleman to insinuate, that he is an indolent senator, except when the concerns of the church call for his exertions; the fact is, he is one of the most zealous supporters of the Irish administration, and the most devoted enemy of sedition in every form; but it must be acknowledged, that his powers are most happily raised when the interests of the clergy combine with the safety of the state, and when he labours at once for God and for his country. Hence it is, that he calls forth his finest figures, and flames with most heat, when he opposes such a man as Mr. Grattan, who so mistakingly would engraft religious freedom on civil liberty. Indeed, against such men as Mr. Grattan, the Doctor delights to pit himself. Even when that gentleman had retired from parliament, his address to his constituents, and some other trifles which appeared in public under his name, excited the attention and roused the fire of the Doctor. He attacked them in a pamphlet so much in the Doctor's strong way, so vehement, we do not say so scurrilous and so abusive, that Mr. Grattan thought himself called upon to give the gentleman, who

had

had taken so much offence at him, some other way of obtaining satisfaction than mere writing would afford him; he accordingly left London, went to Dublin, and, after publishing an advertisement in most of the London and Dublin papers, in which he applied the strongest epithets of contempt to the Doctor's publication, gave notice, that for a certain number of days, in the advertisement mentioned, he should be found at Kearns's Hotel, in Kildare-Street. The Doctor, however, on this occasion, shewed himself a well-disposed subject, who could not easily be persuaded to break the peace: he exerted no sagacity in finding out Mr. Grattan's meaning, and Mr. G. knowing perhaps the danger of giving an ecclesiastical judge a more explicit declaration of it, returned after some time to England.

It is remarkable, that Dr. Duigenan is at present a widower:—his wife was a very rigid Catholic; and, notwithstanding the vehemence of his declaration against popery, and his strong opposition to every popish claim, he kept constantly, during his wife's life, a Catholic priest in his house, as her confessor and chaplain. He is still a healthy strong man, though in declining years:—whether he will a second time connect himself with the abominations of Babylon, is a matter of curious speculation.

W. F.

MR.

MR. GEORGE PONSONBY.

THAT respect which great talents are always sure to meet from the public, when exerted in their service, Mr. Ponsonby has uniformly received: and, however he may at different times have ascended or fallen in the scale of popularity, his vigorous understanding and uncommon powers have invariably procured for him a distinguished place in the public estimation.

Mr. Ponsonby is descended from a family who have been long conspicuous in the political history of Ireland:—he is the second son of the late Right Honourable John Ponsonby, who for several years filled the important office of Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, and who was truly supposed to possess the greatest degree of influence possessed by any commoner, perhaps by any man, in the management of the sister-country. After receiving a very excellent school-education, Mr. Ponsonby was sent to the University of Cambridge, where, without the affectation of remarkable industry or seclusion, he laid in a stock of classical and general learning, which has since contributed to render him one of the brightest, if not the most shining ornament of the Irish senate. In the year 1780, he was called to the Irish bar; and, like most other gentlemen who come to the bar with an independent

pendent fortune, did not for some time distinguish himself by either great legal learning or singular industry in professional pursuits. His connection, however, with the men in power under the Marquis of Rockingham's administration, procured for Mr. Ponsonby the favour and patronage of the Duke of Portland, on his appointment to the vice-royalty of Ireland, in 1782. Under the auspices of that nobleman, he was presented with a silk gown, though only a barrister of two years standing, and at the same time was appointed first counsel to the Commissioners of the Revenue, a place of which the salary and emoluments together are estimated at about 1200*l.* per ann. The system of government in Ireland is thought to require, that he, who holds a place equally valuable with that which had been conferred on Mr. Ponsonby, should also have a seat in parliament, and support with his vote at least, if not with his talents, the measures of administration:—Mr. Ponsonby was accordingly brought into the House of Commons, and, agreeably to the tenure of his office, uniformly voted with the Minister, though it must be acknowledged he did not exert himself in the support of administration in any other way. Indeed, both as a senator and a lawyer, Mr. Ponsonby, during this period of his life, may be fairly charged with indolence; he was neither assiduous in his professional business, nor anxious to evince his attachment to his patrons, by any shew of talents or of zeal in his parliamentary character. Always fond of the sports

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and exercises of the field, the greater part of his time was devoted to the chase, and those convivial pleasures with which it is generally followed.

During the interval between the administration of the Duke of Portland, which began and ended in 1782, and the administration of the Marquis of Buckingham, which commenced in 1788, Mr. Ponsonby continued to enjoy his place and his pleasures in easy indolence. The Marquis, however, who made many patriots courtiers, made also some courtiers patriots:—of these latter, Mr. Ponsonby was one. The Marquis dismissed him from office, and appointed in his place Mr. Marcus Beresford, a stripling of the all-powerful house of that name in Ireland. So considerable a diminution as this occasioned in Mr. P.'s income, to which his having now got a family had rather made an increase necessary, rendered it incumbent on him to exert himself with more vigour than hitherto. He now therefore seriously began to cultivate his profession, nor was it long before he assumed that rank as a lawyer which his masculine and correct understanding entitled him to hold. In a little time business poured in upon him, with a rapidity which proved how high his character for talents stood with the public: and in parliament, too, he now began to display those rare qualifications for debate which have obtained for him the well-founded reputation of being the first parliamentary orator in the Irish House of Commons. The Marquis of Buckingham, too late, was enabled to calculate the amount

of

of his loss in exchanging the talents of Mr. Ponsonby for the puerility and pertness of Master Beresford, yet an unfledged boy; nor did he find that loss compensated even by the smooth and superficial eloquence of Mr. Corry, whose support of his measures had followed his recent promotion to a place in the Ordnance. Against the measures of this administration, Mr. Ponsonby, in concert with a very respectable and numerous opposition, called forth all his powers;—nor was there one of the many topics of declamation or complaint against the Viceroy, which he did not repeatedly urge and aggravate, with all the force which argument or eloquence could lend, to hasten his retreat from the government. Of these topics, the principal was, the expense and rapidly-increasing corruption of administration, evinced by the then state of government-patronage in the House of Commons, where, out of three hundred members, there were one hundred and ten who enjoyed places and pensions under the crown. This cause of complaint the Marquis himself had greatly aggravated, by adding fourteen new placemen to the existing number, for whom situations were created by increasing the number of members at some of the public boards, and by dividing among two or more the duties and salaries of offices which had till then been filled by one individual.

In 1789, the melancholy occasion of the King's illness created a new source of discord between the Minister and Opposition, in the question on the appointment

appointment of a regent. Of this opportunity of evincing his attachment to the popular cause, Mr. Ponsonby took care to avail himself by maintaining with great strength of argument, and, as appeared by the event, with great success, the exclusive right of Ireland to nominate its own regent on the suspension of the royal functions. Mr. Grattan was in this contest the powerful co-adjutor of Mr. Ponsonby. The Irish Commons yielded to the joint exertions of the powers of those two distinguished senators, or rather perhaps to the delusive prospects which they conceived now opened to them, of pre-occupying the favour of a new sovereign, by protecting his rights against the mutilating hand of the Minister. The Prince of Wales was invited to assume the regency, unclogged by any restrictions whatsoever; and the viceroy, who, under the influence of his relation Mr. Pitt, had adopted the other side of this question, mortified by his disappointment, and the still more mortifying circumstances which attended it, withdrew from the government.

The triumph of the Opposition, however, was very short-lived: the happy restoration of the King's health soon taught the majority of that body the folly of their speculation, and induced many of them to atone, by very humiliating concessions, for having differed from the Minister. Mr. Ponsonby was not of this number; his opinion on the question of regency remained unchanged, his opposition to the system pursued in the administration of Ireland

was prosecuted with unabated vigour, and his exertions to expose and to defeat it continued to display as much zeal and vehemence, as when the hope of success in that attempt had been most flattering.

In consequence either of these continued efforts of Opposition to expose the corruption and incapacity of the government, or of that incapacity and corruption resorting to measures which goaded the Irish people to sedition and revolt, it is certain that discontent and disaffection began to grow in Ireland from the period we speak of, until it finally burst forth in the rebellion of 1798. Mr. Ponsonby's pertinacity, and that of those with whom he acted in Parliament, in continuing to reprobate the system on which the Irish government was conducted, and the unyielding, coercive, and obstinate spirit, with which the Minister punished, instead of attempting to reclaim, the misled, has, from the current of public opinion running the other way, induced a temporary obscuration on his political character. Mr. Ponsonby, however, still preserves a consistent steadiness of opinion and conduct on this head, apparently disregarding what imputations the madness or the prejudice of irritated party-spirit may attempt to throw upon his principles or his motives.

Of Mr. Ponsonby's oratorical exertions, the great features are simplicity and strength. His language is constantly the most plain and the most precise, unadorned by any of those rhetorical flourishes, which

which much more frequently weaken the effect of a popular address, rather than render it more impressive. He seldom deigns even to use a metaphor; but, when he does, he selects always those which are strong and obvious. His sentences are generally short, and he is not very fastidious in avoiding a repetition of the same idea when he wishes to impress it strongly on the mind of his auditory, or when there is any thing in its nature which may make it liable to be misunderstood. The matter of his speeches is generally of the best kind, selected by a strong understanding, under the guidance of plain sense, from an extensive knowledge of politics and of mankind. It is chiefly, however, in a debate that Mr. Ponsonby is celebrated; and he certainly possesses, in a very eminent degree, either the *knack* or the *science* of exposing and refuting the arguments of an adversary. In this, his great memory is of the last importance to him. He never takes notes, and yet will frequently recapitulate and answer, nearly in the same order in which they were delivered, all the arguments which have been urged by his antagonists in a debate of twelve or fourteen hours. It must be observed of Mr. P. that he strictly observes the rule given by Cicero to his orator, and passes over, in perfect silence, the arguments which he cannot *well* answer. He notices only the feeble or the false parts of his opponent's reasoning; and, as he always makes it a point to close the debate, he thus is sure to attract from his

his audience, on all occasions, the plaudits of victory.—Mr. P. is now somewhat above forty years old, his person inclining to plethoric, and the cast of his countenance strong and coarse.

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP.

THIS determined opponent of African slavery, and true patriot, is a grandson of the celebrated Dr. Sharp, archbishop of York, who, in the arbitrary reign of James the Second, so honourably distinguished himself as the champion of the Protestant religion and of the liberties of his country. Dr. Sharp, immediately after the accession of King William, was made a bishop, and afterwards translated to the archbishopric of York, and he continued to be the zealous defender of the liberties of his country during the whole period of his valuable life.

His son, the father of Mr. Granville Sharp, was Dean of Durham, and emulated the pious zeal of his father, which he has transmitted, with all its lustre, to that benevolent character who is the subject of this memoir.

If any man of the present day deserves the name of philanthropist, it is Mr. Granville Sharp; since his whole life has been one continued struggle to improve the condition of mankind, sometimes by his literary labours, and, at other times, by

by the more active services of benevolence. To commiserate the unfortunate, in him, seems to be a radical instinct, which, by its force, overpowers those cold and prudential maxims, by which the conduct of the generality are too often regulated. As for those prejudices, which would exclude the oppressed of any country, condition, or complexion, from the rights of humanity, to him they are entirely unknown. The African torn from his country, and the sailor from his home, have ever found in him an eloquent and successful advocate. In his treatise on the Injustice and dangerous Tendency of tolerating Slavery, his arguments, though sometimes diffuse, are strong and convincing. In this work he clearly proves, that the law of nature, deduced from philosophical reasonings, supposes an equality among all mankind, independent of the laws of society; nor can any social compact suppose one man to surrender his liberty, with the propriety of his person, up to any other,—a barter for which he can receive nothing in exchange of equal value. One circumstance which contributed greatly to call the attention of Mr. Granville Sharp to the consideration of slavery, and its evil effects on society, as it is curious, and developes in a high degree the excellent qualities of his heart, shall be here fully related. It has this peculiarity, also, that on its merits the law of England was ascertained, concerning the right to freedom of every person treading on English soil: about which, many eminent lawyers had enter-

 tained

tained different opinions. The case is this ;—A poor negro-lad, of the name of Somerset, labouring under a disorder that had been deemed incurable, and which had deprived him of his sight, was abandoned by his owner as an useless article of property, and turned into the streets of London to support his miserable existence by precarious charity. The poor creature, in this destitute and forlorn condition, was expiring on the pavement of one of the most public streets in London. Mr. Sharp chanced to pass that way. This gentleman beheld him with that sympathy which is characteristic of his benevolent disposition. He caused him to be immediately removed to Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, attended personally to his wants, and had the happiness, in a short time, to see him restored, by proper medical assistance and food, to the full enjoyment of his health and sight. The hand of beneficence extended still farther its fostering care ; Mr. Sharp clothed him, and procured him a comfortable employment in the service of a lady of his acquaintance. Two years elapsed: the circumstance and even the name of the poor negro had escaped the memory of his benefactor, when Mr. Sharp received a letter from a person of the name of *Somerset*, confined in the Poultry-Compter, stating no cause for his commitment, but humbly entreating the protection of that goodness, which had formerly preserved his life, to save him from a greater calamity. The humanity of Mr. Granville Sharp

Sharp led him instantly to the prison, where he found the same poor negro who had been the object of his former compassion. His master, by whom he had been discarded in sickness and misery, and who had abandoned him to the world as an unserviceable and dying creature, seeing him accidentally behind the carriage of the lady to whom Mr. Sharp had recommended him as a servant, and perceiving that he had recovered his health and strength, seized him in the street, pulled him down from the chariot, and caused him to be sent to prison as a run-away slave. Mr. Sharp waited immediately upon the lord-mayor, who caused the master and the poor negro to be summoned before him. That upright and well-informed magistrate decided that the master had no property in the person of the negro in this country; and that, consequently, as there was no other charge against him, he was perfectly free, and at liberty to depart wherever he pleased. The master instantly, however, seized the unfortunate black by the collar in the presence of Mr. Sharp and the lord-mayor, and insisted on his right to keep him as his property. Mr. Sharp claimed the protection of the English law against the master, and, causing him to be taken into immediate custody, exhibited articles of the peace against him for an assault and battery. The lord-mayor took cognizance of the charge, and the master was committed and compelled to find bail for his appearance at the sessions to take his trial for the offence.

offence. Thus the great question of slavery, which involved the honor of England as well as the fate of thousands, was brought fairly before an English court of justice. A *certiorari* was obtained to remove the cause into the court of King's Bench, whence it was submitted to the twelve judges, who unanimously concurred in opinion, that the master had acted criminally, and thereby emancipated for ever the race of blacks from a state of slavery while they remained on British ground!

Having succeeded so well in the first instance, his mind was naturally led on to farther endeavours to benefit the condition of oppressed Africans. He observed many of these people begging about the streets of London, and conceived the idea of sending them back to their native country, for the double purpose of ameliorating their own condition, and, at the same time, introducing the seeds of civilization into Africa. These people he collected together to a very considerable number, and, at his sole expense, sent them over to Africa, where they formed a colony, and built themselves a town, which, in compliment to their benefactor, they named *Granville*. It is situated on the river Sierra Leone, not far from the newly-established settlement of *Free Town*.

In the discussion of the important question concerning the legality of press-warrants, Mr. Sharp displayed the same energy as he had done in the case of Somerset. A freeman of London, of the name

name of Mellichip, had been impressed into the service of the navy. Mr. Sharp applied to Mr. Alderman Bull, then lord-mayor, for an order for his discharge, which that magistrate, ever watchful over the liberties of the people, and incorruptibly pure in the administration of public justice, instantly granted. The commanding-officer of the press-gang had previously removed Mellichip to the Nore, in order to place him beyond the limits of the city jurisdiction. Mr. Sharp then caused the Court of King's Bench to be immediately moved for a writ of Habeas Corpus to bring the body of Mellichip into court, which being of course complied with, Mr. Sharp insisted, that, there being no charge against him for a breach of the laws, but being detained under the pretended authority of an impress-warrant, the court, as guardians of the liberty of the subject, was bound to discharge him. Lord Mansfield felt himself compelled to acquiesce in the constitutional justice of this demand, and ordered Mellichip to be set at liberty.

It was to the active humanity and patriotism of Mr. Sharp, that the Society for abolishing the Slave-Trade owes its origin. This society has since extended itself in several countries in Europe and through all the states in America; and, though its exertions have not yet been attended with complete and wished-for success, it has brought about several very important regulations of this horrible traffic, and has considerably ameliorated the condition

dition of the unhappy victims. Of this excellent society, Mr. Sharp has been the president ever since its first institution.

In his political principles, he is the ardent and zealous friend of liberty, and neglects no opportunity of defending its principles or asserting the neglected rights of the people. He has ever been the warm advocate for a parliamentary reform, and has recommended a plan to the public founded on the earliest principles and practice of the British constitution. He desires to restore the ancient tithings by which the whole country was formerly incorporated into societies of ten men each, who were joint security for the legal and peaceable demeanor of each other, and who elected, annually, from amongst themselves, a conservator of the peace, called the tithing-man. Ten of these societies he would unite into a larger body, denominated, agreeably to ancient practice, the Hundred, who should elect annually their constable; and ten of these bodies again to form the largest assembly of the Thousand, who should annually elect, upon the original principles of the British constitution, their elderman or magistrate. All trivial causes and disputes to be settled once a month by a jury of twelve men, in the Hundred-court, before the constable; and all causes of a superior nature, and appeals from the Hundred, to be decided in the court of the Thousand, before the elderman and a jury of their peers. The whole body of the people to form, in this manner, the national

national militia; each Thousand to constitute a regiment, the elderman or magistrate to be their colonel; and each Hundred to constitute a company, the constable of each, for the time being, to be their captain. So many of the thousands to be summoned once in every year, by their magistrate, as would have a right to choose a five-hundred and fifty-eighth part of the representative legislature, and vote in their respective hundreds before the constable, without expense to the candidate or loss of time to the voter.

Mr. Sharp has shewn that the division of this kingdom into *tithings* and *hundreds* was instituted at first by the virtuous and patriotic King Alfred. He has likewise demonstrated, in his treatise on this subject, that such an institution is thoroughly consistent with the most perfect state of liberty that man is capable of enjoying, and yet competent, nevertheless, to answer all the necessary purposes of mutual defence, the due execution of just and equal laws, and the sure maintenance of the public peace. Neither does this system of government want either the prescription of antiquity or the test of experience to recommend it to our notice. It reduced to order the Israelitish armies in the wilderness, and diffused comparative happiness through this kingdom, from the days of its royal institutor to the Norman conquest.

The episcopal church in America was founded upon a system recommended by Mr. Sharp, and he had the honour of introducing their first bishops for

for consecration to the present Archbishop of Canterbury. America has, however, no established religion. The constitution of that country can neither establish nor prohibit any mode of worship which any individual may think proper to adopt.

In the unfortunate war which ended in the separation of America from Great Britain, the virtue and patriotism of this gentleman suggested to the Congress the idea of having recourse to him, as a means of bringing about a reconciliation between the two countries. Two commissioners were accordingly dispatched to Paris, for the purpose of transmitting to Mr. Sharp, in London, proposals for the British government.—Mr. Sharp delivered the propositions to Lord George Germain, who was then the American minister; and, the terms not being acceded to by the English ministry, the commissioners returned, and America was declared independent on the 4th day of July, in consequence of this refusal.

The wide scale on which Mr. Sharp has acted, and the various interests his schemes have embraced, certainly mark him out as no common character; and, though his writings have been ineffectual to produce a recurrence to our first constitutional principles, though his colony settled in Africa may not have succeeded, and press-warrants still disgrace the annals of our tolerative jurisprudence, yet the maxims he has inculcated, and the steady perseverance he has evinced, through the course of a long

a long life, in the cause of liberty, will not be without their effect. Good actions and sentiments are never totally lost.

Mr. Sharp was designed for the law, but never practised. He was afterwards in the Ordnance-Office; but, having a genteel competency, and disapproving of the American war, he gave up his place, and took chambers in the Temple, where he has resided many years. Free from every domestic incumbrance, he has there applied his mind to the pursuit of general knowledge. He is a good linguist, both ancient and modern, is well-read in divinity, extensively acquainted with law, an enlightened politician, and a great amateur of music. Every Sunday night he devotes to the harp, of which he is extremely fond. This, however, is meant for a devotional exercise, since the Psalms of David, sung in Hebrew by himself, are the constant accompaniments of his instrument. On these occasions, owing to his venerable appearance, united to his vivacious manner, he presents to his auditors the most lively appearance of bardic enthusaism. A perfect orthodox Christian in his belief, he has too much sense to fall into those narrow bigoted sentiments, which disgrace the rigid profession of many otherwise excellent characters; he therefore relaxes sometimes into innocent gaiety, and is seen amusing himself at a convivial meeting, held at a tavern in Fleet-Street, once every week, for the purpose of singing old English madrigals. His voice is good, and his judgement and execution

execution considerable. This partiality for music, also, makes him a constant attendant at the cathedral-service of Saint Paul's, the organ of which place, and chants, he thinks excellent.

Mr. Sharp's literary labours have been principally directed to theology, politics, and juridical economy. In his Dissertation on the Prophecies, he differs from Dr. Williams and Bishop Newton in many important particulars. In another tract he has become the defender of the doctrines of Original Sin, the existence and operations of the Devil, and the Athanasian mystery of the Trinity. He has also added his quota of endeavour to abolish the Gothic practice of duelling. In the treatise alluded to, he has proved that the decision of private quarrels by private combat is contrary to law; and, when one of the parties falls, that the survivor is guilty of wilful murder; and in this conclusion, few thinking men will differ from him.— His work entitled "Legal Means of Political Reformation," and his "View of the State of Government under the System of Frankpledge," are monuments of patriotism, which will ever rank him among the Hampdens and Sidneys of this country.

Mr. Sharp possesses a very extensive library, where a theologian, a lawyer, a classic, a politician, an antiquary, or an Orientalist, might find ample amusement, suited to their different tastes. His collection of Bibles is esteemed the best in the kingdom.

Mr.

Mr. Sharp, though now between seventy and eighty, like Cato, pursues his studies with all the ardour of youth. Within these last four years he has made himself a tolerable proficient in Arabic. But it must be remembered, that age to him is no burden,—that he has lived a temperate and regular life, and that Reason has always maintained her supremacy over his passions: his declining age, therefore, like the evening of a fine summer's day, is calm and clear.

To judge from appearances, Mr. Sharp bids fair to arrive to a very advanced age. His form is the medium between the thin and the athletic, his stature of the middle size, his countenance clear, his disposition cheerful, his gait upright, his nerves steady, and his actions, though thus considerably advanced in years, possess all the sprightliness of youth.

The posthumous biographer of this excellent man will be able to do complete justice to his virtues. His name and actions will adorn the British Plutarch, for the imitation of the old: and his virtues will necessarily be emblazoned in the British Nepos,* as a model for the instruction of the young. He will be ranked with our Howards and

* Dr. Mevor, of Woodstock, has lately published an excellent school-book, under the title of the British Nepos, which comprizes the lives of all the most illustrious Britons, from Alfred to Howard, and which is recommended to general adoption by the obvious truth, that *example is more seductive and powerful than precept.*

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our Hanways, as one of the most worthy of his countrymen. Here let us, however, consider, that we have perhaps already said more than will be grateful to the eye of modest merit; we shall only hope, that our deserved praise, and the general esteem of all his contemporaries, will occasion this good man to continue his virtuous course, till he shall meet with the future and everlasting reward which his religion has taught him to believe in and expect.

O.

THE RIGHT HON. THOMAS PELHAM

IS eldest son of Lord Pelham, who succeeded to that title upon the death of Thomas Holles Pelham, Duke of Newcastle and Marquis of Clare, to whom he was the next in succession in the male line. The Earl of Lincoln, who succeeded to the title of Duke of Newcastle, being the son of his sister, and married also to his neice, the daughter of the late Right Hon. Henry Pelham, prime minister in the reign of George the Second, to whom, and to his heirs male, the title of Duke was limited by patent bearing date the 13th of November, 1756, as was the Barony of Pelham to the present Lord, by another patent of the present King granted the 4th of May, 1762.

Mr. Pelham was elected a representative for the county of Sussex at the general election in 1780; and,

and, arranging himself on the Treasury side of the House, he continued to vote on that side during the remainder of Lord North's administration till March, 1782. On the appointment of the new administration, the name of Mr. Pelham was the only person from his side of the House which displayed himself in the new arrangements. He obtained the office of surveyor-general of the Ordnance, and continued to hold it under the succeeding administration of Lord Shelburne.

This party being driven from power by the coalition in 1783, Mr. Pelham attached himself to Lord North and Mr. Fox, and was appointed secretary of Ireland under the lord-lieutenancy of the late Earl of Northington. But, the coalition being in their turn compelled to retire from office at the beginning of the year 1784, Mr. Pelham was dismissed, and he in consequence became a decisive and active opponent of all the measures of the present administration. He continued to pursue this line of political conduct till the defection of the Duke of Portland and his connexions had reduced the numbers of the Opposition in the two Houses of Parliament so considerably, as to give no farther alarm to the Minister, nor to afford any hope of future preferment or emolument to those who adhered to the principles of the Opposition. In this situation Mr. Pelham once more changed his party, and was converted to the interest of the present administration. He was, thereupon, restored to his former post of Irish se-

cretary, and he continued to hold that office during the government of Earl Camden.

We cannot consider these instances of tergiversation as reflecting great lustre on an eminent political character; on the contrary, we lament that the fashion of the times at all authorizes such dereliction from public principle, and we are forced to admit, with Sir William Draper in his reply to Junius, that the "principles of the most exalted characters hang too loosely about them."

Mr. Pelham is amiable in private life, his manners and address are conciliating; and, as a magistrate, he is impartial and highly respectable. He has contributed greatly to the introduction of the improved system of agriculture into the county of Sussex, and is much esteemed in his neighbourhood and in the militia of that county, of which he is lieutenant-colonel, for his pleasing and friendly qualities. His personal influence procures the return of four members to parliament; one for the town of Lewes, two for the borough of Seaford, and himself for the county of Sussex.

O.

THE DUKE OF GRAFTON.

THIS distinguished veteran, in the field of politics, still attracts the attention of his contemporaries, by the great authority of his name, by his late virtuous secession from public business, and by

by his patronage of learning and learned men. In the progress of an active life, he has ably filled the first offices in the state; has conscientiously done his duty, whenever the measures of the respective administrations differed from his own notions of rectitude; and, at the present period, when he finds that his warnings and his advice are of no service to his country, he wholly retires from public view, contented with the character he has so well earned of an enlightened statesman and genuine patriot.

His Grace was born on the 28th of September, 1736, and succeeded to the title of his grandfather before he became of age, in the year 1757. The late King appointed him lord-lieutenant of the county of Sussex; and, as an admirer of the great William Pitt, he became a patriot of very promising expectations. He in fact so closely united himself with the party of that great man, that, under the subsequent administration of Lord Bute, he was deprived of his lord-lieutenancy.

The outset of his political life was uniformly distinguished by an opposition to the court faction, and by his zeal for the liberties, glory, and constitution of his country. He was of the number of those who warmly opposed, with a sort of prescience of its consequences, the American Stamp-Act, which was passed in 1762; and he particularly distinguished himself by his censures of the terms of the peace, and of all the measures of the Bute and Grenville administrations.

 Such

Such conduct strongly recommended the Duke to the confidence of the popular party; and, in the Rockingham administration, which succeeded that of the Grenville, he obtained the appointment of secretary of state to the foreign department. To the honour of his Grace and his collegues, a wiser and more liberal system was pursued, the obnoxious Stamp-Act was repealed, and a spirit of equity and moderation characterized every measure of the new administration.

A division of sentiments having been effected among the leading men, by the intrigues of that secret faction, whose influence has done so much mischief, his Grace resigned on the 22d of May, 1766, because he would not act unless Lord Chatham were one of the ministry. A new administration was in consequence formed in the month of August, consisting wholly of the friends of Lord Chatham, and the Duke of Grafton had the honour to be placed at the head of the Treasury. This patriotic party was speedily undermined, as the preceding had been, and, in little more than a year, a division and mutual jealousy having been effected, the Lords Chatham, Shelburne, and Northington, resigned.

This was the most critical and interesting epoch of the life of the Duke of Grafton.

He and Earl Camden retained their places after their patriotic friends had resigned, and thus exposed themselves to the suspicion of the patriots, and to the invectives of the immortal pen of Junius.

This

This party-writer, although so eloquent, and whose political style will long remain a model, will not, however, be received as an authority by any sober historian. No person at this day estimates the character of the Duke of Grafton from the twelve Philippics, addressed to him by Junius. To a certain degree, his Grace undoubtedly committed himself. He continued to act with men whose principles he has ever been supposed to disavow, and, by the countenance of his name, gave a colour to measures which might not without that sanction have been carried into execution. It is a fact, which cannot be wholly palliated, that his Grace held a responsible situation in a Tory ministry, during the foreboding years, from 1767 to 1775.

There is, however, strong reason to believe, that his Grace was for a long time in a minority in the cabinet. His whole life belies the supposition, that he approved of the principle of taxing the colonies, and of the other unconstitutional doctrines which were acted upon during this period. However, on the 10th of November, 1775, he resigned his office of Lord Privy-Seal; and this resignation, united to his subsequent opposition to the violent measures of administration, furnished demonstrative proof in favour of his political consistency. It is understood, that his Grace resigned as soon as he discovered the mad project in the cabinet, of conquering America, and of introducing a system of taxation by force of arms.

His Grace was afterwards found in the patriotic lists of Opposition, during the whole of the American war. And when, in 1782, the close union of the Rockingham and Shelburne parties effected the overthrow of Lord North, his Grace was restored to his former office of Lord Privy-Seal. This situation he held till April, 1783, when he and his friends were compelled to give way to the preponderating influence of the infamous coalition.

Since that period, his Grace has held no ostensible situation under the government, but he has never omitted, in his seat in parliament, to offer his opinions on every important occasion. He has uniformly disapproved of the principle of the present war, and is of the number of those independent persons, who consider it as pregnant with mischief to the constitution and prosperity of the British empire. His last eloquent and most pathetic speech drew tears from the writer of this article. It was an awful moment to hear such illustrious and independent patriots as the Dukes of Grafton and Bedford, the Marquis of Lansdown, and the Earls of Moira, Suffolk, and Guilford, declare successively their design to secede from their senatorial duties, which had become so useless and mischievous. The Duke of Grafton concluded one of the most interesting speeches ever heard in a public assembly, with the following declaration, "*I shall retire, my Lords, to my country-seat, to instruct my children; and await, in awful*

silence,

silence, the eventful period which I see approaching!"

The reader has thus rapidly followed the political career of the Duke of Grafton. He will now find it no less interesting to view him in his domestic life, as a private and opulent nobleman.

His Grace has been twice married. From his first dutchess, who was the daughter of Lord Ravensworth, he was divorced in March, 1769. He was married to his present dutchess in the May of the same year. By his two marriages he has had seventeen children; four by the first, and thirteen by the last; fifteen of whom, seven sons and eight amiable daughters, are still living.* With such an interesting family, who, that has children, will doubt, that the Duke of Grafton is a sincere patriot, and real friend to the interests of his country. What better pledge of integrity can the public expect, than that its first servants should possess minds fraught with intelligence, and hearts which beat with the sensibility of parents?†

* His eldest son, the Earl of Euston, was born in the year 1760, and has represented the University of Cambridge in four successive parliaments; he is, moreover, lord-lieutenant of the county of Suffolk, colonel of one of its regiments of militia, and ranger of St. James's and Hyde Parks.

† The man who "*hath not music in his soul,*" that is to say, whose soul is not alive to the sympathies of filial and paternal love, and to the tender affections of private life, ought seldom to be trusted by a sovereign or his people.

His Grace has been Chancellor of the University of Cambridge upwards of thirty years, and, by his influence and patronage, is conceived to have been the means of introducing the liberal and active spirit, which has peculiarly distinguished that University. Those friends of civil and religious liberty, who are its members, have always expressed their high sense of his Grace's liberal sentiments, while his conduct has been so moderate, as on no occasion to give offence, even to the partizans of passive obedience. In testimony of the flattering opinion entertained of his Graces's principles, we shall quote the elegant *Ode to Liberty*, written by that amiable poet, Mr. George Dyer, late of Emanuel:

"May Fitzroy, too, the gen'rous transport share;
And rais'd by love of thee, and love of truth,
View Liberty's long lustre mild and clear,
Till its full orb illume Britannia's youth,
And I, the meanest of the tuneful throng,
On Cam's fair banks, will chant to thee the grateful song."

His generous patronage of Mr. Gray ought not to be forgotten. Mr. G. was known as an excellent poet and man of letters, but was wholly unprovided for, when, without any solicitation, the Duke, as chancellor, advanced him to the Professorship of Modern History, worth upwards of 300*l.* per annum. Mr. G. deeply impressed with a sense of his obligation, volunteered the following lines into

into the Ode performed on the occasion of the installation of the Duke as chancellor, on the 1st of July, 1769.

But hark! the portals sound, and pacing forth
With solemn steps and slow,
High potentates, and dames of royal birth,
And mitred fathers, in long order go:
Great Edward, with the lilies on his brow
From haughty Gallia torn,
And sad Chatillon, on her bridal morn
That wept her bleeding love, and princely Clare,
And Anjou's heroine, and the paler Rose,
The rival of her crown, and of her woes,
And either Henry there,
The murder'd Saint, and the majestic Lord,
That broke the bonds of Rome:
(Their tears, their little triumphs o'er,
Their human passions now no more,
Save Charity, that glows beyond the tomb!)
All that on Granta's fruitful plain
Rich streams of regal bounty pour'd,
And bade these awful fanes and turrets rise,
To hail their FITZROY's festal morning come;
And thus they speak in soft accord
The liquid language of the skies.

"What is Grandeur, what is Pow'r?
Heavier toil, superior pain,
What the bright reward we gain?
The grateful mem'ry of the good.
Sweet is the breath of vernal show'r,
The bee's collected treasures sweet,
Sweet music's melting fall, but sweeter yet
The still small voice of Gratitude."

Foremost

Foremost and leaning from her golden cloud
The venerable Marg'ret see!
"Welcome, my noble Son, (she cries aloud,)
To this, thy kindred train, and me:
Pleas'd in thy lineaments we trace
A Tudor's* fire, a Beaufort's grace.
Thy lib'ral heart, thy judging eye,
The flower unheeded shall descry,
And bid it round heav'n's altars shed
The fragrance of its blushing head:
Shall raise from earth the latent gem
To glitter on the diadem.

Lo! Granta waits to lead her blooming band,
Not obvious, not obtrusive, she
No vulgar praise, no venal incense flings;
Nor dares with courtly tongue refin'd
Profane thy inborn royalty of mind:
She reveres herself and thee.
With modest pride to grace thy youthful brow
The laureate wreath, that Cecil wore, she brings,
And to thy just, thy gentle hand
Submits the fasces of her sway,
While Spirits blest above and Men below
Join with glad voice the loud symphonious lay."

Mr. Gray will not be suspected of a disposition to flatter, by those who knew the independence of his mind.

The Duke for many years past has been occupied in collecting books, with more assiduity than almost any nobleman of his time. His library is

* The Countess was a Beaufort, and married to a Tudor: hence the application of this line to the DUKE OF GRAFTON, who claims descent from both these families.

copious,

copious, splendid, and well chosen; and is particularly valuable for many incomparable copies of the scarcest and most esteemed classic authors in their earliest editions, which the liberality of their owner renders accessible to all students who wish to consult and use them, in the true spirit of one, who loves, and promotes, and patronizes, literature.* We will venture to assert, without fear of contradiction, or any imputation of exaggeration and servility, that none of the Duke's contemporaries, under similar circumstances of situation, with a very numerous and expensive family, can boast such instances of spontaneous generosity and disinterested service to learned men, whether by relieving their embarassments, or encouraging their works.

The Duke is the reputed author of a well-written and judicious pamphlet, published about ten years ago, on the subject of the Church-Liturgy and Subscriptions, which was favourably

* Among numerous instances, a recent one may be instanced, relative to the new edition of GRIESBACH's New Testament.—His Grace offered to print a new edition in England, at his own expense; but, as Griesbach had been employed for many years in the improvement of his work, it was judged more expedient, that it should be re-printed on the continent, under the author's own inspection, upon paper sent from England by the Duke. This was done, and his Grace has since distributed a great number of copies. Others he has put on sale at a low charge, for the general convenience of the public.

received

received by the public, and has passed through several editions.*

In religion, he is understood to be friendly to Socinian or Unitarian doctrines, and he frequently attends the Unitarian chapel, in Essex-Street, of which Dr. DISNEY, since the resignation of Mr. LINDSEY, is become the officiating pastor. His Grace is said to have printed, for private circulation, a very interesting tract, containing his own private sentiments in matters of religion.

In person, the Duke of Grafton is of the middle size, but slender, with a countenance shrewd and intelligent, and thought to resemble that of his royal progenitors. His manners are highly agreeable and fascinating; his dress is remarkable for great plainness and neatness. As a parliamentary orator, he is very animated, and speaks with great dignity and interest; his style is strong and classical, and he always engages the respectful attention of his auditors. He has been admitted, even by his enemies, to be a nobleman of great talents and learning. Lord Chatham evinced his high opinion of him, by placing him at the head of his own administration; and Mr. Wilkes, and even Junius, have acknowledged, that he possesses the most elevated powers of mind.

His Grace is ranger of Whittlebury-Forest, his Majesty's game-keeper at Newmarket, receiver-

* Entitled, "Hints submitted to the Serious Attention of the Clergy, Nobility, and Gentry, newly associated."

general

general of the profits of the seals in the King's Bench and Common Pleas, and of the prizage on wines, chancellor of the University of Cambridge, high-steward of Dartmouth, recorder of Thetford and Coventry, a governor of the Charter-House, and a knight of the garter. May he long live the blessing of his family, and the ornament and hope of his country!

A. D.

MR. SECRETARY COOKE.

NOTWITHSTANDING the vehement opposition made by the people of Ireland to a closer union with Great Britain, yet that country almost ever has been, and it is likely ever will be, governed, even internally, by the counsels and advice of Englishmen.

Among those who have for some years past guided the affairs of Ireland, Mr. Cooke is not the least conspicuous. He is the son of the late Dr. Cooke, of King's College, Cambridge, who died two years since at Bath, a man distinguished for his high literary attainments.

Mr. Cooke, at an early age, was placed upon the King's foundation at Eton-School, where he received a classical education, and, when qualified, was sent to King's College, Cambridge, of which college his father was then provost.

In

In the year 1777, the late Earl of Buckinghamshire was appointed lord-lieutenant of Ireland, and the present Sir Richard Heron, who was then an eminent conveyancer, was appointed chief secretary to that nobleman's administration.

Sir Richard was not long in this situation, before he found that the duties of his office made it necessary for him to call in the assistance of some confidential person, who, to use his own phrase at the time, would be "a faithful drudge," in the character of a confidential clerk. Accordingly, Sir Richard applied to some of his friends, then at Dublin-Castle, to recommend him some young man of this description, who might be found at either of the English universities, possessing sufficient talents, and whose circumstances in life would render such a situation an object worthy his attention and acceptance.

By these friends, Mr. Cooke was recommended to Sir Richard. Upon being applied to, he gladly embraced the situation, and was appointed chief clerk, or, to use the more palatable expression, *private secretary* to the chief secretary, at a salary of 200 *l.* per annum.

Mr. Cooke continued for some time in this situation, in addition to which, he farther made himself useful to government, by supporting administration in many of their periodical publications, and by performing the duties of a certain non-descript office, which, though it wants a name, is nevertheless

vertheless well known in the system of Irish administration:—its business was to attend the sittings of the House of Commons, and be in readiness, at the direction of the Minister of the day, to communicate between him and his friends, to acquaint them, in cases where their services might be wanted, of the urgency that called them, and, in a word, to assist ministerially in executing one part of the office of the chief secretary. It was at a time, when the minority of the Irish House of Commons was much more numerous and respectable than it has been of later years, and, of course, much more to be dreaded by the Minister, that Mr. Cooke was thus employed, to hang upon their rear, and watch their motions. The duty, in many cases, was arduous and important: Mr. C. discharged it to the full satisfaction of his employers, and was rewarded, first, by a place of 200*l.* per annum in the Dublin Custom-House, and, after a due probation, by the lucrative office of chief clerk to the House of Commons. This office was conferred on Mr. C. during the administration of the Duke of Rutland.

The unpopularity which attached to his Grace, in the early part of his administration, occasioned by the introduction of the *Irish Propositions*; the *doctrine of attachments* against the High Sheriffs of cities and counties, for calling aggregate meetings of the freemen and freeholders, &c. &c. produced in the daily and other periodical prints, at that time, animadversions, and (some indeed scandalous) libels, not only against the *public measures*, but

but the *private conduct*, of that nobleman. These circumstances afforded Mr. Cooke a favourable opportunity, of rendering himself not only extremely useful, but agreeable, to government, by his vindications of the administration, through the medium of pamphlets and newspapers; and for these as well as his other services, it was, that Mr. Cooke was appointed clerk of the Irish House of Commons; an office, the duty of which requires little more than attendance and regularity, and is rewarded by salary and emoluments, which amount, it is said, to 1400*l.* or 1500*l.* per annum. This office was settled on him for life, *i. e.* he had the power of nomination, when he should himself be inclined to retire.

Mr. Cooke continued in this situation until the important period of the Regency, which occurred during the administration of the present Marquis of Buckingham, in 1789, when Mr. Charles Francis Sheridan, (who then held the employment of secretary for the military department in Ireland,) voting in parliament for declaring the Prince of Wales unrestricted Regent of Ireland, was dismissed from office, and Mr. Cooke appointed to succeed him: he was, at the same time, nominated to a seat in the House of Commons (of which he was then clerk) for one of the government boroughs.

Already he had given several proofs of his talents, both in a political and a literary way; and it was supposed, that those talents could be turned to better

better use, in the capacity of a senator, than in the confined character of a noter of minutes. It was thought, that a man, possessing considerable learning, much strong sense, and political information, would have been a respectable, if not a brilliant, parliamentary partizan. In this, at least, however, he disappointed his patrons; for, on his first essay in debate, it was found, that he wanted voice, and temper, and management, for a public speaker. His voice was so low and guttural as to be scarcely audible, his temper hot and irascible, and his management of himself and his argument so incautious as to leave both open to ridicule and retort. There were other reasons which co-operated to prevent Mr. Cooke from being a frequent or a formidable supporter of his party. The situations he had successively filled, from his commencement in public life, were known: in some of them, he had been so recently employed, that, whenever he spoke, the House viewed him rather in his former characters, than in that of a brother-member;—hence his arguments were frequently answered by the ridicule, the contempt, or invective, of Opposition, against the agents of corruption, the whippers-in of a party, or the government of clerks. It was neither for the honour of Mr. C. nor for the benefit of his friends, that he should too frequently give occasion to the malice of the Oppositionists, to expatiate upon these topics, even though he possessed more of the qualities of a parliamentary speaker than he appeared to do; he, therefore, prudently declined being prominent in debate, and, for

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the future, limited his senatorial exertions to the giving of a silent vote, or to the short explanation of a public account or a parliamentary estimate. But, if Mr. Cooke be not an eloquent speaker, he is yet thought to be a very useful member of parliament; for, though he cannot convince or lead the House by his reasoning or by his eloquence in a public harangue, he is, nevertheless, known to be most persuasive in private colloquy with individual members, nor is there, perhaps, among the friends of the Minister in the Irish House of Commons, any man better skilled in persuading a majority to keep together, in estimating the probable event of a debate, or in guarding against the wicked efficacy of patriotic declamation.

Mr. Cooke continued secretary, for the military department in Ireland, from the year 1789 until the administration of Earl Fitzwilliam, in 1795, who displaced him, and appointed Colonel John Doyle his successor. Lord Fitzwilliam, also, dismissed Sackville Hamilton, Esq. from the office of secretary for the civil department, and appointed Lodge Morres, Esq. his successor.

A very few years since, Mr. Cooke married a young lady, daughter of Colonel Ham. Gorges, with whom he got a considerable fortune. The general belief is, however, that he does not enjoy much connubial happiness in this connexion; for, whether it be that Mr. Cooke disliked in his lady those fashionable levities which are equally prevalent in the Irish as in the British metropolis, or that there were other reasons of a more private

nature

nature for disagreement, it is certain that they now live in a state of voluntary separation.

Lord Camden having succeeded Lord Fitzwilliam in the government of Ireland, he immediately dismissed both Colonel Doyle and Mr. Morres, and appointed Mr. Cooke to the office of secretary to the civil department, in the room of Mr. Morres, which situation he (Mr. Cooke) holds at this moment.

Previously to the late unhappy rebellion, Mr. Cooke was particularly distinguished by his zeal and his activity, in developing the conspiracy and in procuring the arrest of the principal conspirators; nor is he less zealous and active at present in counteracting the machinations of sedition; for, Mr. C. seems to believe, that sedition is yet hatching revolutionary projects. But, it is not these laudable exertions of his, in restoring or preserving the peace of the country, that have of late made him so conspicuous; it was his publication of his arguments, for and against an union, which was designed as the precursor of that measure, and expected, no doubt, to smooth the way for it.— This work neither answered the hopes which were formed of it, nor corresponded with the literary reputation of its author. Instead of preparing the public mind for the favourable reception of that measure, it contained a collection of topics so injudicious, as to raise a host of enemies against its favourite object; it disgusted the loyal, by attempting to prove, that the good government and the independence

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of the country were incompatible, and it gave strength to the disaffected, by declaring, on authority almost official, that the evils they complained of, and which they had taken up arms under pretence of redressing, existed even more mischievously than they had stated. In a literary point of view, it was equally objectionable; for, it boasted neither ingenuity of argument nor beauty of composition.

W. Y.

MAJOR JOHN CARTWRIGHT.

THE family of Major Cartwright is of great antiquity in the county of Nottingham. By the female line, through a descent of five generations, he is sprung from the Pierrepoints:* one of his ancestors represented the borough of Retford, in the reign of Charles I.† and a younger branch of his

* Which gave him relationship by blood to the late Duke of Kingston and the present Duke of Portland.

† An ancestor of the Major's, as may be seen in Clarendon, was also comptroller of the navy, and commanded, at one time, a squadron of the King's ships; and Sir Hugh Cartwright, another of them, had been so strenuous a supporter of the royal cause, that he was obliged, on the elevation of Cromwell, to retire to Antwerp. The Major himself is a younger brother of the gentleman who spent so many years in Labrador, and published a Journal, in three quarto volumes, of the events which there happened to him. He is also brother to the Rev. Edmund Cartwright, author of Armine and Elvira, and other poems; and who has established a high reputation

his house has represented the county of Northampton in several parliaments. There are, perhaps, some to whom these circumstances may most recommend him, but his proper merit is in himself. He is mild in his manners; of a temper warm, but governed; ardent and steady in his affections; elevated in his sentiments; daring and indefatigable; possessed of all that is essential in politeness, yet negligent of frivolous forms and fashions, with a strong sense of moral and religious obligation, as appears in all his writings.

An ardour in the pursuit of virtuous fame was the first and will, perhaps, be the last passion of his soul. This has impelled him ever to do more than his duty, but rendered him careless of those rewards which he deserved. Though he had served with the late Duke of York, Lord Howe, Sir Hugh Palliser, and Admiral Byron, every one of whom have borne testimony to his merit, the rank of lieutenant terminated his career of naval promotion. But his career of generous ambition and virtuous action began with his earliest youth, and will end only with his life.

While but a boy, he left his father's house to engage in the service of the King of Prussia, whose heroic deeds had stimulated his youthful ambition. Being overtaken by a friend, he was prevailed upon to return, and divert his mind towards the military service of his own country; and he soon after en-

putation for discoveries in mechanics, which are of the greatest utility in manufactures.

tered

tered into the navy, under Lord Howe.* While with his Lordship and the Duke of York, the daringness of his spirit was shewn, by his leaping from a 74-gun ship into the sea, as the ship was under sail, in order to save the life of a young gentleman who had fallen overboard. And he after-

* He embarked in 1758, at the age of eighteen, and became a lieutenant in 1762. He was present, in 1758, at the capture of Cherbourg and the destruction of its naval bason; and, in 1759, was in the glorious action on the French coast, when Sir Edward Hawke defeated Conflans. Lord Howe's ship, the Magnanime, had a full share in that engagement, and concluded her part of it by a sharp contest with the French Hero, of equal force; both ships carrying 74 guns. The Hero struck to her opponent.

When Lord Howe, a few days after that action, was selected by the admiral to command a meditated attack on that part of the French fleet which escaped into the river Villaine, only one lieutenant and two midshipmen were taken by his Lordship out of his own ship, to attend him on that service. Mr. Cartwright was one of the latter; and, it will be seen, that he did not afterwards lose his Lordship's good opinion.

It was about this time, that our young seaman reformed the exercise of the great guns on ship-board; which, until curtailed by him, was as long and tiresome as the manual exercise of a soldier used to be. Slight as this circumstance appears, it may perhaps be considered as an indication of a mind early turned to *the reforming of bad systems.*

His improved and concise mode was communicated to his friend Falconer, who gives it as an article in his Marine Dictionary. Here, it may not be improper to add, that Lord Howe, ever attentive to the discipline of his ship, had all the seamen instructed in the use of small arms, and committed the charge of this instruction to Mr. Cartwright and a Mr. Cannon, whose sole employment it was, until the end in view was accomplished.

wards,

wards, while a midshipman, made a proposal to Lord Howe, to undertake the burning of some French men of war, which his Lordship was then blocking up in a harbour;* but Lord Howe thought the attempt too hazardous.

Under Sir Hugh Palliser and Admiral Byron, at Newfoundland, he distinguished himself for five years successively, by his able and upright administration of justice, in the extensive districts committed to his jurisdiction; by supplying the defects of the laws, in cases of difficulty, with judgement, address, and firmness; and in being the proposer of several reformations. He will also be remembered in that island, so long as it shall remain in English hands, as the discoverer of the country to the very centre of the island, to which he penetrated through unexplored woods and the settlements of hostile savages, with the view, amongst other generous purposes, of rendering them friends, and affording them the means of becoming Christians.†

In 1771, he was obliged to quit his ship for the recovery of his health, which had greatly suffered, and, for two or three years, had been constantly

* The river Charente, below Rochfort.

† On this occasion, he penetrated to, and discovered, a lake, which proved to be the capacious source of the river Exploits, emptying itself into a bay of the same name, on the east coast, in latitude 49° 30′. This lake, but without any name, was delineated on a chart of the island, published by Jeffries, geographer to the King, in 1775.

declining. But sickness could not repress the activity of a mind devoted to the public, nor could the allurements of society wean him from this strong attachment. He very soon wrote a free and manly pamphlet, on the Rights and Interests of the Adventurers in the Newfoundland Fishery, against the Neglects of the Legislature, and the Oppressions of Governors,* which he presented to the secretary of state. He drew up, also, a plan for a perpetual supply of English oak to the navy, for cultivating the royal forests, and other great advantages to the nation, which met with the highest approbation; and which he laid before the ministers, but without receiving even an answer to his many applications upon the subject. They stole, indeed, a part of it, which answered their own purposes, but by no means secured those benefits to the public, which were the author's object; and, with regard to the whole of the plan, the best idea that can be conveyed of it will be in the words of a friend† of the Minister, to whom it was shewn, who candidly remarked, "We are not honest enough for such plans as these."

In 1774, he could no longer suppress his feelings for the sufferings of America, and the fatal

* This little work was never printed, having been intended only as advice to, and expostulation with, the Minister, who presided over the department which had the superintendence of the fishery.

† Doctor Douglas, now bishop of Salisbury. See Letter to the Duke of Newcastle. Appendix.

consequence

consequence to his own country, which he foresaw from the arbitrary principles and rash conduct of the ministers; and he then wrote his first Treatise on Politics, a treatise, that was then neglected, as full of false prognostics and chimerical proposals. But time has shewn, that it was prophetic, and containing instructions of the soundest policy. This was followed, from time to time, by other publications, in all of which he shews a true knowledge of our constitution, an ardent love of liberty, and a contempt of private interest and personal danger, when in competition with the public good.

He was early distinguished, and decided his fitness for a seat in parliament, by his "Vindication of the Legislative Rights of the Commonalty," in which he traces, with precision, the declension of our parliament, from its ancient purity and excellence, to its present corrupt state, refutes all the arguments in favour of the rotten system, and clearly points out the means of reformation. Besides addressing this work to the public, and presenting it to the King, he used every other effort, in the power of a private person, towards setting on foot the proposed reformation, from a full conviction that nothing less could save his country.

The town of Nottingham shewed their gratitude to the author of so valuable a gift, and had the honour of being the first who wished to send him as their representative to parliament.

Prior

Prior to Mr. C.'s first voyage to Newfoundland, he commanded a cutter stationed on the coast of Dorsetshire, when, going into Plymouth for provisions and some trifling articles of refitment, he had an opportunity of witnessing a mode of making out public accounts, which may well cause such accounts to be viewed with distrust, until a radical reform shall have obtained, for the nation, stewards who will sift them to the bottom, and make examples of those who abuse the trusts reposed in them. An account of the application of the moneys remitted to the dock-yard was drawn up to be laid before *the House of Commons*, in which every ship, and other object of expense, was set forth in the first column, and other columns were appropriated to building, re-building, repairs, refitment, &c. &c.; and then came a column, shewing the total expense. Mr. C. from a natural curiosity respecting his own vessel, the *Sherbourn*, was desirous of seeing what had been the expense incurred on her; but, as he knew it could not exceed 30*l.* or 35*l.* he rather expected it would have been included in the general article of *small craft*, than to have been particularly specified in a national account, which he did not suppose would descend to such minutiæ.

In the proper column, however, he found the *Sherbourn*, when, looking forward to the column of *totals*, he saw, to his astonishment, a charge of 1200*l.* He took the earliest opportunity of personally communicating the fact to a Lord of the Admiralty.

Admiralty; who had also a seat in the House of Commons; but he never heard that the mode of stating such accounts was corrected.

On his return from Newfoundland, at the close of the year 1770, he was invited by his original commander, Lord Howe, then appointed to commence a new war with Spain, relative to Falkland's Islands, to become one of his lieutenants in the Queen, a ship of 90 guns, which invitation was gladly accepted.

The dispute with Spain, however, being adjusted, the admiral's flag being struck, and the Queen made a *guardship* at Spithead, the contrast between the dronish service which ensued, and the activity in which our lieutenant had moved for the thirteen years he had then been in the navy, was such as to be very ill relished by a mind like his; wherefore, he took an early opportunity of retiring to recruit his health; and that circumstance seems to have decided the future complexion of his life.

In this retirement from naval activity, in executing abroad the will of the state, he had leisure for contemplating the principles and policy by which the state itself regulated its conduct. The seeds of American separation were now sown; the *Stamp-Act* had been long passed and repealed; but the *Declaratory Act* having laid a new foundation for oppression, the folly and injustice of the government soon gave fresh cause of discontent to the colonies. Attending to the progress of the dispute, Mr. Cartwright formed

his

his opinions; and, when matters ripened into a dangerous crisis, feeling with warmth the interests of truth and justice, and anxious for the honour and prosperity of his country, he became in regular form an author.

His first essays were a series of letters in the spring of 1774, published in a newspaper; in January, 1775, he made additions, and then published the whole as a pamphlet, entitled, "*American Independence, the Interest and Glory of Great Britain.*" Foreseeing the issue of the tyrannical conduct of his country, unless timely corrected, as well as the sound policy of guarding against future disputes, he proposed to declare America independent of *parliament*, and *then* to form with her the closest connexion, founded on their natural relationship and common interest; his Majesty still remaining king of each state, the states to be separate, and Great Britain to be the umpire of their disputes, the guarantee of their separate independence one of another, and the guardian of the whole; receiving, at the same time, from each, such a specified monopoly of certain branches of her trade, or such an annual sum of money, as should be agreed on, for naval protection of her territory and her commerce.

It is remarkable, that, in June of the same year, a committee of the American Congress drew up a paper, in which it is said, "And we hereby declare, that, on a reconciliation with Britain, we shall not only continue to grant *aids in time*

time of war, as aforesaid, but whenever she shall think fit to abolish her monopoly, and give us the same privileges of trade as Scotland received at the union, and allow us a free commerce with all the rest of the world; we will willingly agree (and we doubt not it will be ratified by our constituents) to give and pay into the Sinking-Fund *one hundred thousand pounds sterling per ann.* for the term of one hundred years; which, duly, faithfully, and inviolably, applied to that purpose, is demonstrably more than sufficient to extinguish *all her present national debt*, since it will not amount, at legal British interest, to more than 230,000,000 *l.*

"But, if Britain does not think fit to accept this proposition, we, in order to remove her groundless jealousies, that we aim at independence, and an abolition of the Navigation-Act, (which hath, in truth, never been our intention,) and to avoid all future disputes about the right of making that, and other acts, for regulating our commerce, do hereby declare ourselves ready and willing to enter into a *covenant with Britain*, that she shall fully possess, enjoy, and exercise, that right for a hundred years to come, the same being *bona fide* used for the common benefit."*

That counsels of a very different cast from those of Mr. Cartwright were adopted by his Majesty and his ministers, this country has had sufficient

* Franklin's Political, Miscellaneous, and Philosophical Pieces, page 363.

cause

cause to lament; nor is it uninstructive to observe, that, at the period alluded to, no one member, of the then numerous and powerful Opposition in parliament, could elevate his mind to the magnanimity of approving and recommending American independence; nay, they agreed with ministers in treating such notions as marks of disaffection; and Mr. *Burke*, afterwards, made it his boast, that, if there were one member of the House a greater champion than the rest for the supremacy of parliament, it was himself; a boast as devoid of constitutional principle, as of that wisdom which ought to distinguish a statesman!

The plan suggested by Mr. Cartwright, which has been *already observed*, was, in the *political* sense of the word, a UNION between Britain and America, under one and the same crown, but separate and independent legislatures; and, by the last of his publications, it appears, he does not approve of any other kind of union with IRELAND. President Laurens, on his release from the Tower, having been asked his opinion of Mr. Cartwright's proposal, made a reply to this effect:—he observed, that, for the peace and happiness of mankind, it was probably better the union did not take place, since it would have given the united countries a degree of strength, that would have made them formidable to the whole world.

With regard to the above-mentioned paper, drawn up in the American committee, it is well known, that it never appeared on the minutes of

of Congress, "a severe act, which arrived about that time, having determined them not to give the sum proposed in it."

In August, 1775, Mr. Cartwright received his commission as Major of the Nottinghamshire militia, then raised for the first time since the passing of the Militia-Act, in 1757.

It was in this year, 1775, that the American sword of *resistance* first drew British blood; and that the Major published "a Letter to Edmund Burke, Esq. controverting the Principles of American Government, laid down in his Speech of April 19, 1774."

Early in the spring of the year 1776, Mr. Cartwright received a new invitation from Lord Howe, to accompany him on service. To a lieutenant on half-pay, who had "a partiality for a naval life," and who felt to his Lordship a strong attachment, from a reverence of his character as a man, an admiration of his talents and conduct as a commander, and a grateful affection to his person as his professional preceptor and the friend of his fortunes,—such an invitation could not but be most alluring. There was, in effect, included in it a tender of rank, of command, and probably of wealth; but the lieutenant had read, he had reasoned, and he had written, on the American dispute. He shed tears, but he preserved his principles;* and, although Lord Howe expressed his full

* In consequence of this refusal, to draw his sword against the cause of liberty, we find that he did really forego all those splendid

full persuasion, that he should be able, by his powers of negotiating as commissioner, to accommodate the subsisting differences, without having recourse to arms; the lieutenant seems to have formed a more solid judgement than the commissioner; and, at all events, proved he was incapable of hazarding the possibility of the dilemma he must have been in, should arms be ultimately resorted to.*

In 1777, the Major published "a Letter to the Earl of Abingdon," expostulating with his Lordship on certain constitutional points, on which he judged his Lordship to have erred. The writer of these memoirs is not in possession of that letter, but the noble Earl, he recollects, spoke of it as the controversy of a gentleman.

On the 2d of April, as the Major informs us,† he presented to the King, at his levee, "Proposals for recovering America, and saving Great Britain;" and he again urged upon his Majesty, about the end of that year, an attention to his proposal, in another paper which he then presented. The reader will not expect to hear, that the advice of one, who had vindicated American re-

did advantages, which would most evidently have attended his services, and which were actually obtained by the officer who supplied his place.

* See Letter to the Duke of *Newcastle*, p. 55.

† *Legislative Rights of the Commonalty Vindicated*, p. 249.

sistance,

sistance, obtained him a seat in the Privy-Council; although it will scarcely admit of a doubt, that, had his advice been followed, his Majesty would now have been king of all English America.

The writer, having been favoured with a copy of the above-mentioned paper, has thought it merited a place in these memoirs. It is as follows:

"May it please your Majesty,

"That a loyal subject be permitted to remind your Majesty of the proposals for recovering America, and saving Great Britain, which your Majesty was graciously pleased to receive at his hands, on the 2d day of April last.

"Experience, since that period of time, hath spoken very forcibly in support of such measures as were therein recommended; it will continue, it must continue, to speak the same language; because the principles had their foundation in nature, rectitude, and lawful policy, contrary to those of iniquity and self-contradiction, upon which a corrupt system of government hath been adhered to, and to those also, of a state-expediency, and an unwarrantable spirit of domination, upon which your servants, and even parliament, have betrayed your Majesty into an unjust and ruinous war.

"The war hath been altogether unjust, because the idea of the colonies having been subject to the authority of parliament, while, in truth, they only owed allegiance to your Majesty, was founded in error, and was, in fact, incompatible with

the British constitution; as hath long since been demonstrated in the writings of several private men, one of which number was the writer of these lines, who, certainly, would not dare to approach your Majesty with a direct denial of the just rights of parliament.

"He dares, however, to deny, and thinks it his duty to remonstrate against, any unconstitutional authority whatsoever, which, in exercising its usurped powers, in a way that, however well intended, must, according to his apprehension, inevitably cause his Sovereign's reign to be calamitous and inglorious, and threatens to involve his country in a total ruin. Humbly submitted by," &c.

17 *Dec.* 1777.

What different objects carry different men to courts! Although Lord North was extremely averse in his own private judgement to the American war, he was too good a courtier to intrude disagreeable sentiments upon his Sovereign, and too much the humble servant of his master, to lose his place for his opinions. Nay, he is said to have carried his complaisance so far, as to have been particularly sedulous in having interviews with all officers on their return from America; and in either inviting or forbidding them to appear at court, according as their opinions were favourable or unfavourable to the hope of reducing the colonies to unconditional subjection.

What is it about the supreme executive magistrate of a state, that produces such sycophancy in the

the statesmen of an empire? Can it be any thing but the *degree* of his *power?* Roman emperors, we know, had their temples and their altars, and were worshipped as very gods. Even Turkish sovereigns, who can take off heads at pleasure, have the lowest prostrations from their slavish ministers; but the situation of a limited prince of a free people, if all were sound, ought not to inspire his counsellors with a servility that is treachery to the people.

Early in the spring of the same year, Major C. had published, "Take your Choice, &c." and, again in July, a second edition, under the title of "The Legislative Rights of the Commonalty Vindicated; or, Take your Choice, &c.;" the work which the writer of the "*Sketch*" wished were in the hands of every Englishman.

In 1778, the militia being then embodied, the Major was with his regiment at Hull, where it seems that his assiduities drew from the general of the district, Earl Percy, now Duke of Northumberland, an honourable mark of approbation.* It was, while forming the corps at this place, that the Major, by desire of the colonel, drew up standing orders and instructions, which were printed of a pocket-size, and distributed to all the commissioned and non-commissioned officers. Some extracts from this performance will give a just idea

* *Letter to the Duke of Newcastle, p.* 35.

of this gentleman's notions of military duty. In the section of Instructions to the Officers, it is said,

" At every proper and convenient opportunity, an officer should give due praise to those that keep themselves clean, and are careful to make a soldier-like appearance, and to do their duty with cheerfulness; using his best endeavours to inspire them with that pride in doing well, which makes the soldier's duty a pleasure; as well as with that no less desirable pride in their corps, which interests every soldier in the credit and honour of his regiment. These effects are only to be brought about by an exact discipline, regulated by justice, and tempered with humanity, respect, and politeness, so that the gentleman and the peasant, the colonel and the private centinel, may truly be *brother* soldiers. Love and respect, mixed with awe, are the sentiments in the minds of the soldiers towards their officers, that unite their interests and their wishes; and, without this union, no regimental pride can take place, no regimental reputation be acquired. When moved to displeasure, an officer is particularly to avoid all oaths, or ungentleman like or insulting expressions, to those who misbehave; but to reprimand them in such terms, as shew he feels for the disgrace they bring upon themselves, and is concerned, that they oblige him to resort to the harsh powers of his superior station; and so, in short, as to excite *shame* and *sorrow*, but not *anger*, in the breasts of the offenders; by which means he will preserve the dignity of the officer, and his severities will produce their due effect; and, finally, he is both by example and authority to quicken the men's attention to every word of command, and to inculcate, above all things, the great duty of STEADINESS.

" Either upon the parade, or in the field, an officer will more effectually recall the attention and steadiness of a forgetful soldier, by a quick and reprimanding eye, or a silent token of observation, than by vociferation or abuse; for, the latter disgust and provoke more than they awe; besides, that they are in themselves breaches of good discipline, and very disrespectful to the commanding

manding officer, and indeed to every officer present; while, on the contrary, the former is an instructive example, to the irregular soldiers, of that silent attention and anxious care for the preservation of order, which ought strictly to be observed, by every officer and soldier, to the last moment that they are upon the parade or under arms; when nothing ought to be seen but perfect uniformity, accompanied by immovable steadiness, or quick, exact, and graceful movements; and nothing heard, but the proper sound of those movements, besides the strokes of the drum, the notes of the music, and the voice of the commanding officer.

"Upon all duties of command, or of trust and confidence, such as detachments, guards, superintendence of drills, visiting of hospitals, of quarters, &c. &c. wherein officers act not immediately under the eye of a superior, it should be a most sacred point of honour with them, not to omit the smallest tittle of any such duties, nor to do them in a careless or unmilitary manner; for, though their neglects may not come to the knowledge of the commanding officer, *yet they cannot be unknown to the soldiers*, which is far worse. And, even upon duties the most trifling, they ought always to pique themselves upon setting examples to the soldiers of obedience, punctuality, and unremitting attention. No men upon earth will fail to make good soldiers under such officers; and such examples, far more than the care or labours of the training-officers, will form a regiment to order and discipline, and insure its answering the wishes of our country in the day of battle.

"These, no doubt, are motives sufficiently strong; but, to men of principle and of feeling, there is, perhaps, a motive still more urgent with them, to let their own conduct on all occasions be proper examples to their men: the private soldier *never sits in judgement* upon his officer, but the officer frequently judges, and condemns and punishes, the soldier; and the courts-martial in which he officiates are, in a free country, judicatures of a very harsh nature. How can a bacchanalian officer pass sentence upon a drunken soldier? How can the inattentive punish the negligent? or the disorderly consign to the halberts the disobedient? without being guilty of the grossest insolence, "insolence of office," without filling the minds of the sufferers with

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all the indignation and hatred which tyranny ever inspires, and without subverting the best part of the foundations of discipline. To govern, through the medium of fear alone, is mean and hateful; as far as it may be necessary, it is always to be lamented; and too much pains cannot be used to substitute, in its room, the nobler principle of *emulation*."

The introduction to what respects the private soldiers runs thus:

"A balloted militia-soldier, in a free nation, is one who, by a wise and equitable law, is under an obligation to act as a military representative of his parish, and to bear arms for defence of his country. By serving faithfully in that capacity for three years, he may then remain peaceably at home the rest of his life, under the protection of those whose lot it shall then be to appear in the same honourable character.

"A militia-substitute is he, who, by his own voluntary act, takes it upon himself to bear arms as the military representative of some one parish; and, by always remembering the honourable nature of the character he assumes, he ought to pride himself in supporting it like a man and a soldier.

"The great end of arming a militia is to defend the nation against foreign attacks, without exposing it, at the same time, to that danger to liberty, which is justly to be apprehended from all other military establishments; a militia-man is, therefore, the most honourable of all soldiers.

"It was with a design to impress continually these ideas upon our minds, that the device and motto, which are worn upon the button, and borne in the colours, of the regiment were chosen. The *book* is an emblem of *law*, and the *cap*, of *liberty*; so that the device represents *liberty supported by law, and defended by the arms of the militia*. The motto in English would run thus;—"*For our laws and liberties.*" Such a standard, no Englishman can quit but with his life. Of a similar nature is the design which adorns the clasps of the officers sword-belts.

"It is meant to intimate, that, so long as the militia shall have virtue and courage to defend the religious and civil rights of their country,